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Israel said helping Mobutu's regime

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN** and news agencies
Israel is teaming up with China to train 13 commando brigades to defend Zaire's ailing regime from a spreading rebel war, according to reports from Zaire.
The Israelis are reportedly joining efforts to aid Zaire by its African allies of Morocco, Togo and Chad, who are sending troops. Egypt has offered to send military equipment for the infantry, said an unnamed senior Zairean Defense Ministry official.
According to the official, Israel and China will help train 13 rapid intervention commando brigades of 2,000 men each at bases near the fighting in upper Zaire.
A spokesman for Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai referred all queries on the matter to the IDF Spokesman, who said: "We do not deal with foreign relations."
Israel and Zaire have had strong military links in the past. In 1994, Israel approved a \$50 million deal to send arms and combat veterans to train and equip Zaire's army. At that time the military training was done through the private Israeli arms supplier Lavdan. Led by retired brigadier Ze'ev Zacharin, some 40 recently released IDF soldiers went to Zaire to set up and train an elite presidential guard.
According to the reports from the central African republic, Zaire has already chartered planes to fly in the troops from Togo, Chad and Morocco.
But the official in Kinshasa said he could not give a date for the arrival of the troops. Moreover, the country has launched a sweeping recruitment campaign to beef up the government army.
The reports came as the Zairean army appeared to be crumbling in battles with Tutsi-led rebels as they marched toward the mineral-rich Shaba province. The key cities of Kalemic and Wassa have fallen to the rebels. Only in one area have government troops man-



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, meet with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican yesterday. (Reuters)

Pope wants to visit before 2000

By **Jerusalem Post Staff** and news agencies
Pope John Paul II expressed interest in visiting the Holy Land before the millennium, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu insisted after a 20-minute private audience in the pontiff's Vatican study.
The Vatican issued no statement regarding whether the pope would accept the invitation. Last year, the pope accepted an invitation from Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat to visit Jesus's birthplace in Bethlehem at the turn of the millennium.
"I invited him to visit in the year 2000 due to the importance of the date of Jesus's birth to Christianity," Netanyahu told reporters after meeting the pope. "He said he wanted to come before that time. We said we will, of course, deal with the details. We did not deal with a date."
"We look forward to receiving you in Jerusalem," Netanyahu said as he left the private audience.
The pope responded: "God Bless Israel." Netanyahu later said that he read into the pontiff's willingness to visit and the salutation as signs of the pope's "love of Israel."
A Vatican statement confirmed that Netanyahu had invited the pope "to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land as soon as possible."
Netanyahu repeated an open invitation last made to the pope in 1994 by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.
A trip to the Holy Land, one of the 76-year-old pope's cherished dreams, would be the first since Paul VI visited in 1964.
A senior diplomatic source said Netanyahu, meeting the pope for the first time, brought up the subject of how Islamic fundamentalism threatens Middle East peace efforts. "He told the pope: 'It's not rational, not in its cause, not in its method,'" the source said.
The pope has condemned Islamic fundamentalist violence, most recently in Algeria, but also in the Middle East.
A Vatican statement said the pope told Netanyahu he hopes the Holy Land could be a place where "Jews, Christians, Moslems, Israelis and Arabs, believers and non-believers can create and consolidate a concrete peace in respect of everyone's rights and dignity."
The Vatican statement described the talks as cordial and said Netanyahu had briefed the pope on the status of the peace process.
The statement said Netanyahu promised the pope "to move ahead along the same path" as his predecessors towards reaching an agreement on the legal status of the Catholic Church in the land where Jesus lived and died.
The Vatican statement did not say whether the two had discussed the divisive issue of the status of Jerusalem. The Vatican wants international guarantees protecting Jerusalem as sacred to Christians, Moslems, and Jews. Netanyahu said before the meeting that no authority has done more to assure free access to holy sites than Israel.
The pope, who has suffered a string of health problems over the last few years, appeared in good form during the picture-taking session and an exchange of gifts. He joked and chatted easily with Netanyahu, his wife Sara, and their delegation.
The pope also teased Sara Netanyahu, saying: "You look like a Polish girl" - a reference to his homeland - and she said, "I am."
The meeting was shorter than originally planned due to inclement weather in Switzerland, where Netanyahu was attending an international business conference.
Netanyahu held talks later in the day with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini. He returns to Israel today.

US official says Israel should stay in Lebanon

By **STEVE RODAN**
The Clinton administration does not support a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, a US official said yesterday.
In what appeared to be an endorsement of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's policy, the official said, an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon would leave a vacuum in the area that would probably be filled by anti-Israeli guerrillas. That would be at odds with the US policy of preventing the current tension in south Lebanon from escalating into a major confrontation.
"A unilateral withdrawal seems to us to be problematic," the official said. "There has to be somebody who has to be responsible for security. If there's a withdrawal and Katyusha rockets fall and Israel goes back into south Lebanon again, then what have you achieved?"
A unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, the official said, would also play into Syrian hands. "They'd be quite happy for Israel to pull out without anything being negotiated," he said.
He said an Israeli withdrawal must be part of an arrangement that includes Lebanon and Syria. He said that starting next week, the Clinton administration will begin efforts to restart the stalled talks between Jerusalem and Damascus.
But he expressed doubt over another element of Mordechai's policy in south Lebanon: that which would have Israel, Syria, and Lebanon first discuss security arrangements in the south that would lead to an IDF pullout.
Damascus's objection, the official said, is that an agreement on south Lebanon would resolve what is currently Israel's biggest security headache without meeting its demand for a full withdrawal from Golan Heights.
"If [Lebanon] First works, we'd support it," the US official said. "But we don't see it happening in terms of Syrian acceptance. It's important to be realistic on how this is to be achieved."
The official confirmed reports that since April 1996, after Operation Grapes of Wrath, Hizbullah has received 30 plane-loads of military equipment from Iran. They arrived in Lebanon via Damascus.

Kahalani: 'Bar-On-for-Hebron' probe to close in two weeks

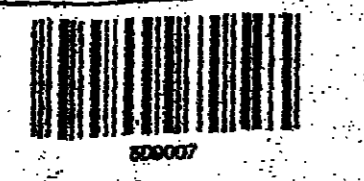
By **LIAT COLLINS** and **RAINE MARCUS**
Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz expects the investigation into the "Bar-On-for-Hebron" affair to be completed within about two weeks, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday.
Kahalani denied interfering with the investigation, saying he is only being informed of who is being questioned. He also denied reports that police are responsible for the leaks from the investigation.
The committee was supposedly discussing police handling of the investigation in Jerusalem, but most of the investigation and in particular the statement by Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman that the police are being used as a political tool. Opposition MKs called for his resignation.
Kahalani gave full backing to the police and said they are preserving democracy. He repeated his suggestion that a panel of retired judges be appointed to investigate future affairs like the Bar-On one. "There are sure to be many more such cases in the future, and we should be prepared for them," he said.

Principal still at school after conviction for stealing

By **BATSEVA TSUR** and **Itim Yehud**
Meshulam, a resident of Givat Shmuel, was found guilty of using the funds collected by the school's parents' committee for his own purposes. He was the sole signatory to the account in which the money was deposited.
The court found that Meshulam had taken an interest-free "loan" of NIS 25,000 for himself, and that he had given several other "loans" to family members and friends. These included employees of the school, his brother-in-law, and the principal of another school. The loans were for sums of NIS 500-NIS 15,000.
In addition, he had given fictitious receipts for money taken from the account that supposedly covered transportation for pupils, but actually went to a junior league soccer team.
Meshulam was also found guilty of giving jobs to friends and falsifying documents so that they would get more pay for "experience."
The principal of a comprehensive high school in Yehud was sentenced yesterday to one year's probation and fined NIS 10,000 by a magistrate's court after he worked out a plea-bargain to drop charges against him of theft and breach of trust. The Education Ministry plans to look into whether Dr. Yosef Meshulam, 62, should be dismissed.
Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell will contact the Yehud Local Council to see if there are plans to fire Meshulam. At the same time, he will meet with Meshulam to hear his version of the case, the ministry spokesman said.
"The dismissal is not automatic," spokesman Benny Shukrun said. "We have to read the court verdict and decide whether it warrants dismissing him, whether the charges are connected with his position as an educator ... He is very well liked in Yehud."
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The story had damaged his good name, and runs contrary to all his beliefs and political convictions, the suit said.
Appel has asked that any money awarded to him by the court be donated to charity.

Rabbi Yosef: I still love Deri

By **SARAH HOMIG**
Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef last night vehemently denied any rift with Aryeh Deri. "I love him dearly," Yosef told Channel 2, after refusing to grant an interview to Channel 1, for breaking the story.
Yosef also denied there had been a "Bar-On-for-Hebron" deal. "I never even heard of [Ron] Bar-On," he stated. "I authorized the Shas faction to support the Hebron agreement two weeks before the vote on it, after the prime minister and defence minister visited me when I was in hospital. That was before the attorney-general business ever came up, so there was no conspiracy."
Yosef said that Deri consulted with him when he heard his attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak was being considered for attorney-general. "I told him not to agree to that because what would he do at the end of the trial without the lawyer who has been handling it for him all along?"
The Shas ministers, according to Yosef, did not consult him about the Bar-On vote in the cabinet, and he later even chided them for this.



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PA: Prisoner killers will be prosecuted

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Authority will take "an iron hand" in bringing to justice those who tortured or

killed a prisoner in Nablus who had been illegally arrested, Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidein said yesterday. Abu Meidein said "there have been some arrests" and an inquiry

was under way by the chief prosecutor into why the military intelligence in Nablus arrested a man accused of non-security crimes, and why his arrest was unknown either to the police or to the PA Justice Department.

Meanwhile, the family of Yosef Baba is demanding an independent autopsy and is refusing the PA's demand to bury the body, their lawyer said yesterday.

Baba, 32, was in good health when he was arrested on January 3. He died on February 1 in Rafidiye Hospital. During the entire period of incarceration his family was not allowed to visit him.

Khader Shkeirat, a lawyer with the Protection of Human Rights, said the family wants a new autopsy either at Rafidiye Hospital with the presence of a family-appointed doctor or at the National Forensics Institute in Abu Kabir.

Baba, a property dealer, had been previously arrested four times in connection with fraudulent property sales, sometimes allegedly selling the same property twice.

Nablus sources said Baba's bad reputation deterred people from demonstrating openly, as they did after the death of Fatah activist Mustafa Jumayel in July last year.

The case is precedent setting because the family hired a lawyer, and because the PA has not accused human rights groups of being a fifth column for publicizing it.

A senior security source in Nablus said the affair highlighted serious problems in the administration of justice. He said many people are arrested without the knowledge of the legal authorities, but "once in jail it is difficult to release them" without orders from PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The sources said that a military intelligence official in Nablus keeps a metal cupboard in his office in which prisoners are locked for hours at a time. "He deals with everything except military intelligence."

Apart from the 12 recorded cases of death in custody, there are many other cases of torture in which the victim does not die, they said.

Shkeirat said there are 1,600 prisoners in Palestinian jails, including 700 held without charge for up to 15 months.

Al Haq, the Ramallah-based human rights group, demanded an impartial investigation of Baba's death, the second in two weeks, and publication of the results.

A legacy of violence

By JON IMMANUEL

The following list of Palestinian deaths in PA custody is compiled from the December joint report of B'Tselem and the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group:

1. Farid Jarboa of Gaza died in Gaza Prison on July 6, 1994. Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidein announced that Jarboa died as a result of violence. Four police officers were arrested and later released.

2. Salman Jalaytah, 40, of Jericho, died in Jericho Prison on January 18, 1995. According to his family, he was severely tortured by members of the Preventive Security Service, and there were indications of violence on his body.

3. Yousef Sa'arawi, 21, from Gaza, was shot in the head on May 25, 1995 during interrogation. According to Attorney-General Khalid al-Qidra, a weapon misfired and the officer responsible would be tried. To date, no one has been tried.

4. Mohammed Amour, 50, of Khan Yunis, died at A-Shifa Hospital on June 21, 1995 after being held for two months by the Preventive Security Service. According to his family, there were signs of burns on his body. An autopsy was conducted and a commission of inquiry established, but no findings have been released.

5. Tawfik Sawarka, 36, of Gaza, died in the central Gaza Prison on August 27, 1995. It was announced that he died of a heart attack. A commission of inquiry was established and it was announced that two interrogators were suspended.

6. Azzam Moshleh, of Ayn Yabrud near Ramallah, was detained by the Preventive Security Service on September 27, 1995. On September 29, his family recovered his body. An autopsy was performed. According to his family, there were signs of beatings on his body. The Palestinian authorities announced that three officers were charged; two were sentenced to one year in prison and the third to seven years in prison.

7. Mahmoud Jumayel, 26, of Nablus, died in Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem on July 31, 1996. Jumayel was arrested on December 18, 1995 and eight days later transferred to Jumeil Prison in Nablus. He was beaten with electric cables and clubs, and given electric shocks. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered an investigation, the results of which have not yet been published. Three interrogators were tried and each sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

8. Nihad Dahlan, 24, of Gaza, died in hospital on August 7, 1996, after being interrogated by Palestinian intelligence for a week. An official announcement stated that an autopsy found he had committed suicide by swallowing pesticide; his family has not received the autopsy report.

9. Khalid Habal, 50, from Hirbatat near Ramallah, died in the Ramallah Police station on August 11, 1996, after being arrested the day before following a dispute with neighbors. On August 13, his body was transferred to his family, who said they saw marks of violence on the body. The Ramallah public prosecutor ordered an autopsy - the results of which have yet to be provided to his family - while the police announced that Habal committed suicide.

10. Rashid Fattani was shot to death in Jericho Prison by a Palestinian Police officer on December 3, 1996, after being arrested on January 15, 1995 by the Preventive Security Service. According to his family, he was severely tortured. According to prison authorities, a dispute broke out between Fattani and a police officer, in which the officer shot Fattani 13 times. The officer was suspended and it was announced that he would be tried.

11. Fayez Qumsiyeh, 53, a cab driver from Beit Sahur, died on January 17, 1997, 11 months after being arrested in connection with the murder of 15-year-old Bassem Ramhani 15 years earlier. Police said he died of a heart attack. The family members said he had a heart condition but seemed healthy when they visited him the morning of his death. They claimed he had a broken left hand and bore other signs of beating.

12. Yosef Baba, 32, property dealer arrested by military intelligence January 3, died on February 1 in Rafidiye Hospital, Nablus. As Baba was clearly tortured, the PA prosecutor-general promised an inquiry.



A soldier checks a Palestinian taxi on Hebron's Shuhada Street yesterday as a settler youth walks past. (Brian Handley)

IDF opens part of Hebron's Shuhada Street to Palestinians

By JON IMMANUEL

The IDF partially opened a section of Hebron's Shuhada Street yesterday, and inside several hours a handful of taxis passed one-way through a police cordon to exit in the Palestinian-controlled zone.

It was, however, the first additional implementation of the Hebron agreement since the IDF redeployment last month and was generally praised by Palestinians as a step in the right direction. "It is late, but it is something," said Hebron Mayor Mustafa Nasheh.

Yakoub Qawiwi was less impressed. He tried to reopen the Taxi al-Shaab stand on the section of the street declared open to taxis and the IDF immediately made him close it, saying that taxis could pass through but could not park on the street or nearby.

Idris Zehadeh, his partner, said, "They don't want peace." Ahmed Jaber, who runs the Padecso gas station where the taxis turn right past Beit Romano before disappearing into the busy market place in H-1, was happier than Zehadeh. He set about renovating his business, but it is not yet clear whether cars will be allowed to stop and refuel there.

Emergency and municipal vehicles can also pass but none did.

Settlers quietly opposed the new change in their lifestyle as a threat to their security and

"ghetto-ization" although no private cars are allowed through, and vehicles are not yet allowed past the houses where Israelis live, which are all beyond the turnoff to Beit Romano.

The street itself was closed to Arab traffic only three years ago, 14 years after Israelis moved into it, not because of attacks on Jews but because of a massive attack on Arabs. The IDF reasoned logically, but in the Arab view unjustly, that after Baruch Goldstein massacred 29 Moslems in the Machpela Cave Jews were in serious danger of revenge attacks and all Arab vehicles should be kept away.

With no cars, and a heavy IDF presence, businesses faded. Many Arab residents moved out. The restrictions caused Nasheh to describe Hebronites as being victims twice over.

For settlers the situation on Shuhada (Martyrs) Street began to resemble what some would have liked to see in all Hebron: it became a heavily fortified pedestrian mall all the way down to the Abraham Avinu Quarter. Arab traffic was minimal and for the first time Shuhada Street, officially renamed King David Street, became not a street of Jews and Arabs but one where Jews predominated over Arabs. Elsewhere, behind the Abraham Avinu quarter where OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan ordered a

cessation of all Arab construction work last week, Hebron rehabilitation committee resident engineer Khaled Qawasmeh explained he still had work to do. "We are working on 50 projects, about 120 units, and we have been told to stop in 18 of the projects," he said.

Qawasmeh is the son of Fahd Qawasmeh, the mayor who was expelled in 1980 by then Defense Minister Ezer Weizman after six visiting Kiryat Arba settlers were gunned down by terrorists on Shuhada Street. That event led the Begin government to let settlers live there.

The buildings to be restored, Qawasmeh said, were built between the 12th to 14th centuries by Moslems in the burst of urban expansion after they defeated the Crusaders. These houses were also vacated during the infidels and after the massacre, when heavy restrictions were imposed on Arab movements.

He feels the IDF's concern for the welfare of the settlers, goes beyond their physical security to their psychological security. "If there had been a real security problem it could have been worked out by the negotiators a month ago. Nothing has changed since then. But the Israelis are saying these buildings are for ex-prisoners. This is just not true. They are for the people who used to live here."

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Matza: PA trying to take over eastern Jerusalem hospitals

By JUDY SIEGEL and JON IMMANUEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday convened directors of the five eastern Jerusalem hospitals to discuss "attempts by the Palestinian Authority to take over" these institutions.

According to the ministry, the office of the director of Makassed Hospital was locked recently, and he was sent on leave. In addition, the hospital opened a new bank account and a supervisory committee was appointed by the PA for the hospital.

Matza said he had received information about intimidation against hospital management. There are "two struggles" going on, Matza said: one personal/political and the other political/diplomatic.

The minister said he did not accept claims that Makassed's director was merely on vacation, saying he was deposited, "because no date was set for his return."

The minister said he would "not allow this illegal

situation" to continue. He asked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who will meet with PA chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez Checkpoint later this week, to warn against the takeover of eastern Jerusalem medical institutions, including Makassed.

The board of directors of Makassed Hospital was ordered changed a month ago by Arafat following repeated work disputes there. The dismissal of the existing trustees was recommended by a commission of inquiry established by Arafat to look into the functioning of the cash-strapped hospital. The workers' union supported the change, hoping it would mean regular salaries.

However, the Palestinian human rights organizations have expressed concern that the Palestinian Authority is trying to overthrow the independent activities of non-governmental organizations in order to run all institutions itself, "contradicting the legal and democratic principles of NGO organization," in the words of an NGO network statement.

Journalists campaign against PM 'hostility'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The National Federation of Israeli Journalists announced yesterday that it is launching a campaign against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his advisers for their "hostility toward the media."

The slogan "The nation is against hostility to the media," will appear in large newspaper ads as of this morning and be distributed

on thousands of stickers. Federation secretary-general Razi Guterman said last night that Netanyahu and his men systematically make sweeping attacks on the media, threaten the Israel Broadcasting Authority and describe newspaper exposes and comments as "garbage" and "trash."

He cited Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman's vilification of Channel 1 on the radio and a Likud gathering last Thursday to rail against the media. This has triggered off angry reactions from journalists and public figures, who urged the Guterman to fight back. "Netanyahu and his people systematically throw dirt at the media, trying to blame it for the government's shortcomings and bungling, instead of letting the journalists carry out their public vocation," Guterman said.

REGIME

Continued from Page 1

aged to repel the rebels, and this was with the aid of some 300 foreign mercenaries, Reuters reported.

Military sources in Kinshasa, the Zairean capital, said the government's two-week-old counteroffensive had bogged down and been hampered by the lack of large airstrips in its control. The roads are poor in the vast African country, making the movement of forces difficult.

Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko Mobutu flew yesterday from

Two killed, one badly hurt on roads

Aharon Michaeli, 26, of Beersheba, was killed early yesterday when he veered off a road in the city for unknown reasons and crashed into a parked truck. Police said they found three tickets for traffic violations in his car. He was declared dead on the scene.

A Palestinian man was killed yesterday evening when his car was hit by a truck at the Tapuah junction in Samaria. A Magen David Adom team declared him dead en route to the hospital.

A pedestrian was seriously injured yesterday evening when he was hit by a truck at a junction near Ashdod. *litm*



BEYOND THE VISIBLE

Author **SAYAKO ARAGAKI** searches for the essence of the art of **YACOV AGAM**. Thru photos and text, she discusses such things as Agam's father (who was a rabbi), his childhood and the Ten Commandments - all key to Agam's art.

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Knesset panel slams El Al over use of uranium ballast in 747s

By EVELYN GORDON

El Al should replace all the uranium in its Boeing 747 aircraft with tungsten, the Knesset Economics Committee demanded yesterday.

However, neither El Al nor the Civil Aviation Administration seemed amenable.

The committee was discussing the crash of an El Al plane in Amsterdam in October 1992. According to a recent article in *Yedioth Aharonot*, there has been an unusually high incidence of cancer in the crash area since, which appears to be linked to burning uranium from the plane. Until 1981, all Boeing 747s used between 750 and 1,100 pounds of depleted uranium as ballast in the tail.

In 1981, Boeing decided to begin using tungsten in all its new planes, due to "concern about safety expressed by operators," according to a letter from the company to the US Federal Aviation Administration which was presented to the committee. However, it did not order its customers to

replace the uranium in existing planes. As a result, nine of El Al's 13 747s still carry uranium.

Tanya Edelstein, the Civil Aviation Administration's supervisor of dangerous materials, told the committee that both uranium and tungsten are heavy metals which are dangerous if breathed. However, she said, uranium burns at much lower temperatures than tungsten, so the chances of dangerous vapor being released in the event of an accident are much lower with tungsten.

In addition, noted Dr. Ehad Ne'eman, of the Environment Ministry, tungsten is not radioactive.

Robert Gero, president of the Ashot Ashkelon company, which produces the tungsten counterweights for Boeing and other airplane manufacturers, added that tungsten is a common material used in most light bulbs. So far, he said, the company has not found that the material causes any environmental problems.

In light of this, committee members demanded to know why El Al did not voluntarily

replace its uranium counterweights with tungsten.

El Al managing director Yoel Feldschu replied that it was not El Al's job to do so without instructions from Boeing, and charged that the whole issue had been blown out of proportion by a group of Amsterdam residents who are hoping to win a lawsuit against the company.

"Boeing is the only one authorized to order the replacement," Feldschu said.

"Don't you think you ought to take the initiative and replace the counterweights on your own, in order to avoid a future disaster?" demanded committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), noting that El Al is responsible for the safety of hundreds of thousands of Israeli travelers.

"We will switch them only at the manufacturer's instruction," repeated Feldschu. "No company replaces [parts] without an okay [from the manufacturer]."

Menahem Sharon, head of the Civil Aviation Administration, backed Feldschu. The FAA has okayed the use of uranium, he

said, and the CAA follows the FAA's rules. "I am not aware of any problem or any replacement of materials," he said.

"I recommend that we be careful about raising claims that have no scientific basis," he added, referring to the charge that the El Al crash was the cause of the increased incidence of cancer in Amsterdam.

Boeing, however, appeared to refute Feldschu's claim that he could replace the uranium only on orders from the company.

"The extent of the continued presence of depleted uranium on the early 747 airplanes is dependent on the respective operators and therefore unknown to Boeing," the company said in the letter to the FAA distributed to the committee.

At the end of the meeting, Goldschmidt accused both El Al and the CAA of negligence in their handling of the matter, and demanded that El Al return to the committee within a week with a promise to replace its uranium counterweights with tungsten.

7-year-old raped in Ramle

Ramle police are searching for a male aged 18-20, who reportedly raped a seven-year-old girl Sunday evening after slashing her brother's face with a knife.

According to police, the youth, who they believe to be a resident of the city, lured the girl, her 10-year-old brother, and a friend into a nearby field.

The suspect then grabbed the girl and threatened the two boys with death if they moved or screamed.

To demonstrate his seriousness, the youth slashed the face of the victim's brother before stripping and then violently raping the girl, according to the children. As the rapist fled the scene, the three children rushed home to their parents, who immediately took them to Assaf Harofeh Hospital before reporting the crime to the police.

The girl, who was questioned by police yesterday morning, is reportedly still in a state of shock and is listed in moderate-to-serious condition. According to police, the suspect is slightly overweight, approximately 1.60 meters tall, with black, curly hair and a swarthy complexion.



Mama loshen
Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, speaking in Farsi, answers questions called in to the Israel Radio studio by listeners in Iran (Isaac Harari)

Tourism fair opens amid concern about the future

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The International Mediterranean Peace Tourism Market (IMPTM) which opened last night in Tel Aviv may have been the biggest ever in its four-year history, but its opening was accompanied by a sense of disquiet about the future of Israel's tourism industry.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, whose first year in office was marked by a seven percent drop in incoming tourism compared to last year, chose to begin his remarks at a press conference marking the opening of the IMPTM by pointing out that other countries had also suffered a drop in tourism last year. Cyprus was down by 8%, Greece by 11%, and Spain by 4%, he said.

"I hope that in 1997 the situation will be peaceful and quiet and that we will see an increase," Katsav said.

Unwilling to commit himself concerning a resurgence of tourism, Katsav was at first unwilling to set any goal for the number of incoming tourists for 1997. Tourism, he insisted was not like an industry where one could talk about specific numbers. When pressed, he set a relatively modest goal, to have more than 2.5 million incoming visitors, compared to the 2.36 million who arrived in 1996.

Ayal Shmueli, publisher of *Israel Travel News*, which is organizing the event, admitted that this year was more difficult than previous years. At the same time, he pointed out, there were participants from such countries as Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Palestinian Authority is also participating in the fair for the first time this year.

Man killed in fall

Police said a man found dead on Tel Aviv's Allenby Street yesterday evening was apparently a Romanian worker who had fallen from the third floor while drunk.

A Yokne'am man, meanwhile, was seriously injured when he fell 15 meters from his roof yesterday.

BACKGROUND

Israel-Vatican relations: A long, slow thaw

By HAIM SHAPIRO

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called upon Pope John Paul II in the Vatican yesterday, it was a far cry from Theodor Herzl's visit to Pope Pius X in 1904.

Herzl requested a chilly response to a request that the Vatican back the establishment of a Jewish state in the Holy Land.

"The Jews have not recognized our Lord, and therefore the church cannot recognize the Jewish people," Herzl reported the pope as saying.

Relations did not seem to get much better over the decades. When the State of Israel was established, the Vatican firmly backed the internationalization of Jerusalem. Though relations between Jews and Roman Catholics seemed to improve dramatically following the Second Vatican Conference and the publication of *Nosra Aetna* in 1965, relations between Israel and the Vatican appeared to continue to languish.

Although the church had officially renounced "the theology of contempt," many Jews remained convinced that the Vatican's refusal to establish diplomatic relations with Israel was rooted in a theology that rejected the idea that the Jews could ever again become a free people in their own land. When the pope received Yasser Arafat in 1982, relations between the two entities seemed at an all-time low.

Thus many Vatican-watchers, both Jewish and Roman Catholic, were surprised to hear in July 1992 that a meeting had been held between then Foreign Ministry director-general Yoel Haddass and Vatican undersecretary for foreign affairs Msgr. Claudio Maria Celli. The talks, the announcement said, were aimed at establishing relations between Israel and the Vatican.

The announcement was fol-

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NEWS in brief

Rabbi Schach in stable condition

Rabbi Eliezer Menahem Schach was in stable condition and "out of danger" yesterday at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, where he was admitted Sunday for serious respiratory difficulties, hospital officials said.

A hospital spokeswoman said there was no change yesterday in the condition of the 99-year-old rabbi, who is fully conscious and attached to a respirator in the hospital's intensive care unit. The spiritual leader of Lithuanian haredim suffers from a blockage of the upper airways due to complications of pneumonia suffered several months ago.

Judy Siegel

Petition planned against extra MK funding

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel plans to petition the High Court of Justice against the Knesset House Committee's recent decision to give all MKs \$10,000 a year to set up a local office. The movement said that if this sum is approved, it should be deducted from the amount of government funding the parties receive on behalf of each MK. However, it said, the public committee in charge of setting party funding would not commit to such a step, so it plans to petition the court.

Evelyn Gordon

Meshulam appeal reheard

Seven justices reheard Uzi Meshulam's appeal against his conviction and the state's counterappeal yesterday, but will issue a decision only at a later date. Meshulam was convicted last year of endangering lives, conspiracy, aggravated assault and other charges by Tel Aviv District Court, which sentenced him to eight years in prison.

The Supreme Court then reduced this to six-and-a-half years on appeal. The state asked for a rehearing with an expanded panel of justices. Meshulam also wanted the rehearing, at which his attorney, Zadok Hugi, argued that Meshulam thought the police were out to kill him, and was therefore acting out of self-defense.

Evelyn Gordon

Local authorities NIS 2b. in debt

The local authorities' deficits currently total about NIS 2 billion, Interior Minister Eli Suissa told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday. Suissa said the ministry is working on long-term plans to increase funding for the local authorities, in line with the Swari report, but in the short term, a government bailout seems unavoidable, he said.

Evelyn Gordon

High Court asks for speedy Olmert trial

The High Court of Justice asked Tel Aviv District Court yesterday to make Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's trial a top priority and finish it as quickly as possible. The court was discussing a petition by Amitai - Citizens for Good Government which demanded that Olmert be suspended as mayor because of the indictment against him.

The High Court said there was no point in its hearing the case if Olmert's trial would be over before it could even issue a ruling. Both sides said they would have a better idea after a scheduling session in the district court next Sunday, so the court decided to postpone hearing the petition until after the session. However, it called on the district court to make the trial a top priority.

Evelyn Gordon

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TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT (non-returnable)
589460	Light mobile electric cart Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices	NIS 351
589459	Lighting trailer Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices	NIS 351
589461	Electric manually-operated forklift Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices	NIS 351
578659	Equipment and accessories for lighting and power installation at the Rotenberg power station Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices	NIS 936
678954	Contract for the supply of nylon contact tape Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices Duration of supply agreement: The supply agreement and obligations according to the agreed conditions will be valid for two years, with an option to extend for an additional year at the same terms, all at the discretion of the Electric Corporation. This option may be exercised by the Electric Corporation at any time during the period of the supply agreement. Participation conditions: 1. Bidders must submit together with their bids reports of type analysis from recognized and authorized testing institutes, according to ISO/IEC 25:38 as required by the specifications. A permit from a recognized Israeli institute should be attached. 2. Bidders must submit three samples of each item to be approved by the Electric Corporation, corresponding to the analysis reports. Samples must be submitted by the last day for submitting bids. 3. Bidders must submit a description of the type of plastic of which the items are made, as well as detailed sketches of the items listed in the tender. 4. Bidders must submit certification of the quality control process carried out at the manufacturer's plant, according to the Electric Corporation's standard 02-2E (attached to the tender) or Standard 2002 or ISO 9002.	NIS 936

Last day for submitting bids: March 2, 1997 at 11 a.m.

Last day for submitting bids: March 9, 1997 at 11 a.m.

CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS (in addition to the conditions outlined above):

- Participation in a tender is also subject to compliance with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1995. Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e. registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
- Bidders who omit to provide a copy of any permit, permission, license, or any other document required in the pre-conditions may be allowed by the Israel Electric Corporation to complete their documentation and submit such document(s) within a stated time to be determined by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, on Sunday - above address, or at the Sales Unit, Ashdod building, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, entrance Gimmel, first floor (Tel. 03-5654879, 03-5654841), on Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be placed in Tenders Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

Hadassah, Clalit join in Modi'in health care

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Hadassah Medical Organization and Kupat Holim Clalit - both of which are grappling with deficits - have decided for the first time to cooperate in the provision of medical services. Doctors and other staffers from Hadassah will man a Clalit clinic in the fast-developing town of Modi'in, between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The center will soon be hooked up with videoconference facilities to allow telemedicine;

doctors in the clinics will be able to consult with their colleagues in the Jerusalem university hospitals in real time on the basis of scans and computer data transmitted from Modi'in.

A formal ceremony marking the arrangement will be signed tomorrow at the Malraz commercial center in Modi'in. HMO board chairman Aharon Fogel, director-general Shmuel Penchas, Clalit chairman Dan Michaeli, and outgoing director-general Avigdor Kaplan will be present, along with

Modi'in Local Council chairman Moshe Schechter.

Hadassah says it will provide primary medical care at the highest level, but at the same time, Clalit members in the area will be free to choose other doctors and facilities elsewhere. A temporary clinic will immediately offer clinics for gynecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, orthopedics and dermatology; a new \$1.5 million, 1,000-square-meter building will be constructed as a permanent facility within two years.

Nurses' protest to disrupt hospitals today

By JUDY SIEGEL

Services at nearly all the general hospitals will be severely disrupted today, as nurses protest against the Treasury's failure to solve overcrowding in wards and meet their demands to increase manpower. Union chief Ilana Cohen said yesterday. Cohen blamed Finance Ministry officials for the deterioration in the hospitals and for the failure of negotiations over manpower standards, last updated in 1984, which determine how many patients are treated by nurses in each unit.

"We warned about the upcoming crisis," Cohen said. "Since 1984, the population has grown by one million and complicated new technologies have been introduced but no additional job slots have been added."

The employees - Kupat Holim Clalit, the government and voluntary organizations such as Hadassah and Shaare Zedek -

were bound by a labor court decision last December to set new standards, Cohen said. But no progress has been made, and some hospital departments are filled to as much as 150 percent of their capacity.

No comment was available yesterday from either the Finance or Health ministries.

All general hospitals (except Netanyahu's Laniado, where workers are bound by a no-strike clause) will be affected. Nurses will be absent from all ambulatory services in the hospitals, including outpatient clinics, day hospitals and diagnostic institutes. In addition, only emergency surgery will be performed, and the wards will have only a minimum number of nurses on the job.

Neo-natal, delivery, fertility, dialysis and oncology units will function on a reduced schedule. Every hospital will have a strike committee to approve treatment in emergencies.

Hermon ski slopes set to open

By DAVID RUDGE

The Mt. Hermon ski site is set to open for skiing for the first time this winter after heavy snow in the past two days.

The snow had already reached a depth of over 30 centimeters on the peak by yesterday morning, amid continued flurries throughout the day.

The wintry weather was good news for the staff of the site, owned and run by members of Moshav Neveh Aviv, itself on the slopes of Mt. Hermon.

The site was opened to visitors two weeks ago after the first real snowfall of the winter. There was insufficient snow, however, for skiing.

Staff at the site yesterday reported that the latest snow had covered the mountain and they planned to open for visitors and skiers either today or tomorrow.

Snow was also expected to fall last night on parts of the Golan and Galilee hills, with the possibility of light snow or sleet on peaks over 800 feet in central districts, including Jerusalem.

The cold snap brought rain, hail, thunderstorms and icy winds to most parts of the country as temperatures plummeted.

The rain once again caused long delays on the roads because of flooding, including several places in Haifa and other parts of the country.

It brought smiles, however, to hydrologists and staff of the Lake Kinneret Authority who are hoping for more heavy rain in the coming weeks to raise the level of water in the lake.

The water level in the Kinneret rose by just one centimeter yesterday to reach its highest point so far this winter. So far the level of water has risen by just four centimeters throughout the winter and is still only 1.46 meters above its minimum mark.

The rain is expected to die out in the course of today and tomorrow, although the forecast is for the weather to remain cold.

Haifa Chemicals management will talk - if workers leave plant

By DAVID RUDGE

Management of the troubled Haifa Chemicals factory in the bay-side industrial zone is prepared to resume negotiations with workers over a new collective labor agreement - provided they honor court orders and leave the factory.

Company spokesman Eitan Loevenstein made it clear yesterday that management would not resume the talks - despite appeals by the Histadrut - until the workers complied fully with the National Labor Court ruling to vacate the premises.

The striking workers and the Histadrut maintain they have honored the order and all workers have left the factory with the exception of members of the works committee.

The workers said they had pitched their protest tent outside the factory gates.

The court banned workers from staging a sit-in or picketing inside the factory and ordered the strikers to remove all barricades and any other means they had prepared to prevent management from resuming control of the plant.

The court, however, gave members of the works committee free access to the factory and allowed them to meet in their office to deal with union business.

Sources close to management warned that there is a danger that owner Arye Genger, who lives in the U.S., will decide to close the plant if the stalemate continues much longer.



Students march through the streets of Belgrade during a protest in the center of the Yugoslav capital yesterday. Tens of thousands of students shut down a major Belgrade bridge during a protest march only hours after Serbian riot police attacked pro-democracy demonstrators at the same spot. (Reuters)

Milosevic turns violent on Belgrade protesters

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of students shut down a major Belgrade bridge in a protest march yesterday only hours after Serbian security police stopped and attacked pro-democracy demonstrators in the same spot.

Riot police were nowhere to be seen when the university students swarmed across Brankov Bridge to suburban New Belgrade and then back again into the city, temporarily snarling traffic on a busy weekday afternoon.

Student leaders said they staged the march to see whether President Slobodan Milosevic's dreaded security forces would treat them differently from the opposition party coalition whose followers were assaulted overnight.

"Our action shows the police have double standards," said one student leader, alluding to what diplomats call Milosevic's policy of ambiguity - mixing repression with forbearance - to buy time in a crisis threatening his autocratic rule.

His security police attacked thousands of peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators overnight, injuring more than 100 in the bloodiest political violence seen for years in Belgrade.

Opposition activists vowed they would not be intimidated by the police rampage and tens

of thousands of people poured into downtown Republic Square yesterday afternoon for another rally.

Riot police were not visible but independent Radio Index said seven buses filled with at least 400 policemen were parked in readiness in a street not far away.

Zoran Djindjic, co-leader of the opposition coalition, urged demonstrators who have been protesting for three months against election fraud not to be provoked into violence to avoid giving Milosevic a pretext for emergency rule. "We won an enormous victory last night as we showed the world how easy it is for a dictator to lose his temper," Djindjic told the whistling, raucous throng in the square.

"It is important that we do not lose our patience, that we persevere so that these three months won't be in vain."

Milosevic unleashed his police on Zajedno with the clock ticking toward legal deadlines this week for rulings on opposition appeals against the annulment of municipal election losses in Belgrade by the president's Socialist Party.

The mandate of the current Socialist-led city council's mandate expires today, stirring opposition suspicions that the police assault might

be a prelude to emergency rule that would preempt any court action.

State television (RTS) said police struck on Sunday night only to clear crowds who were blockading the Brankov Bridge for three hours. It is one of Belgrade's major traffic arteries.

Protesters of the Zajedno (Together) coalition were really only trying to file across the bridge to a central square for their usual evening rally but were halted by police, leading to a three-hour standoff, an angle ignored by RTS.

Police in helmets and body armor turned central Belgrade into a battleground overnight, repeatedly charging marchers demanding the restoration of opposition victories in elections in 14 large municipalities.

Most of the 20,000 marchers gathering for the 77th straight day of protests quickly dispersed in the face of truncheon charges backed up by water cannon, some of whose salvos were apparently laced with a tear-gas chemical. But some stood their ground in the sub zero mid-winter cold, retaliating by hurling stones, bricks and bottles.

Local journalists said such aggressive forays by security forces had been unseen in Belgrade since 1991 when Milosevic called in tanks to quell previous protests.

Suu Kyi says more than 100 arrested

RANGOON (AP) - Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi issued a fresh call yesterday for sanctions against Burma's military regime, saying worsening repression since student unrest in December has resulted in more than 100 arrests.

She said the detainees triple the number acknowledged by the government - have been arrested in the wake of protests, including 52 members or supporters of her National League for Democracy.

Suu Kyi told reporters that sanctions are necessary "because of large-scale repression of the democracy movement." Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, was allowed by authorities who have maintained roadblocks around her lakeside home since September to hold a news conference for a score of journalists.

Security officials checked the journalists' identification before allowing them inside the barricades. Plainclothes officers took photographs of those entering.

Rangoon won't move Jewish cemetery

BANGKOK (AP) - Responding to pleas from Israel and other countries, Rangoon's city government has decided not to relocate the city's only Jewish cemetery, the Israeli ambassador to Burma said yesterday.

The city government had wanted to develop the land in northwestern Rangoon shared by adjoining Jewish, Persian, Christian and Chinese cemeteries, and build homes and a shopping center.

"They have changed their plans, and we are very pleased about that," ambassador Gad Nathan said by telephone.

Almost 700 Jewish tombs are located in the 1,000 square meter, palm tree-lined cemetery, the oldest dating from 1876, and the most recent 1985. Many are crumbling as Moses Samuels, the trustee of the only synagogue in Burma, struggles with limited funds to maintain the molding tombs against the harsh tropical climate.

Only eight Jewish families remain in Burma. At its peak, the community totaled about 3,000

people, mostly of Persian, Indian and British origin, including members of the Sassoons, a prominent merchant family.

Most of Burma's Jews fled before the Japanese invasion of World War II, and as Gen. Ne Win nationalized private business during 26 years of socialist isolationism from 1962-88.

A recent report in a Thai newspaper that the cemetery was being demolished was incorrect, Nathan said.

"We reached an agreement with Ko Lay, the mayor of Rangoon, almost three weeks ago, and he put it in writing," Nathan said.

He attributed the government's change of plan to an outpouring of concern from Jews in Israel and other countries who read newspaper articles about the cemetery's planned demolition.

Many had contacted Burmese embassies to protest, Nathan said. With no rabbi, or Jewish clergy, living in Burma, many Jews feared halacha would not be observed in moving the remains.

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Bomb damages American dorm at Paris university

PARIS (AP) — A gas canister rigged as a bomb exploded on the steps of a dormitory for American students before dawn yesterday, shattering the glass entrance and the lobby's windows but causing no injuries, police said.

The canister, weighing 13 kg, exploded at 4:25 a.m. outside the American Pavilion at the Cité Universitaire in southern Paris, a police spokesman said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the spokesman said "on customary anonymity. Police were investigating what kind of explosive material was inside the canister.

"It was a terrible sound. It woke me up. I was very afraid when I heard it," said Kalisa Gary, a 20-year-old French literature student from Chicago. "That's one of my biggest fears. I heard a lot about metro bombings." A wave of bombings in 1995 and a subway blast in December that killed four people have been linked to Algerian Muslim militants.

"I was very afraid last night, but it doesn't seem like it was meant to hurt anyone," said Gary. "There

was just glass all over the place. You could smell the smoke." Workers swept up glass blown out from the wrought iron entrance doors of the brown-brick building and prepared to install new window panes.

The blast also ripped up part of the concrete steps, damaged a wooden atrium and shook off some sections of the lobby's ceiling. Dust covered the lobby furniture.

University authorities said no evacuation was planned but they were conducting identity checks and allowing only residents inside the building that houses about 270 students, about 60 percent of them American.

A university security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to say if officials had received any threats.

There was no immediate comment from the US Embassy on the attack.

"I don't understand it. I never experienced this," said Clementina Spinosa, a 20-year-old international relations student from Red Hill, Pennsylvania, awakened by the blast.

Discouraged Pakistanis trickle to the polls

LAHORE (AP) — Benazir Bhutto voted yesterday in elections called after her government was ousted on corruption charges, repeating accusations that her enemies had rigged the vote against her party.

The former prime minister apparently was setting the stage for a legal challenge of elections she is expected to lose. She was one of the first — and few — Pakistanis to come early to the polls in a race marked by voter apathy.

"I'm concerned about the low turnout," she said. "But basically it is because of the administration's attitude. The odds are heavily biased against us." She said local administrators in her home district of Larkana impounded cars in which her Pakistan People's Party had planned to take voters to the polls.

Opinion surveys had predicted that turnout would be as low as 20 percent, down from 40 percent during the last election in 1993. Nearly 60 million Pakistanis are registered to vote, but few people emerged in the hours after polls opened.

Shortly before polls closed at 4 p.m., elections commission deputy director Khawaja Alta Husseini said turnout picked up in the afternoon, and he believed the final figure would approach the 1993 vote.

But reporters saw few people at the polls all day, and apathy was evident.

"I don't give a damn about voting," said Mohammed Abdul, who lives near Lahore. Politicians "get elected, the make promises about roads, then they never build the roads." Voters are believed to be discouraged because there are no new choices among the candidates — and because they've seen three governments dismissed on corruption charges since democracy replaced a military dictatorship in 1985.

"We don't want to vote for anyone," said Rahim Baks Junejo of Larkana.

But balloting was greeted enthusiastically in the tribal areas of the Northwest Frontier Province, where the franchise was extended for the first time for this election. But conservative Moslem leaders had threatened to punish women who tried to exercise their new right, and the crowds at polling stations in the province were male-only.

President Farooq Leghari, who fired Ms. Bhutto three months ago, had pleaded with Pakistanis to vote in a national address late Sunday. Still, he acknowledged that some of the candidates were tainted.

Ms. Bhutto main challengers are former Prime Minister

Nawaz Sharif, whose government was dismissed in 1993 amid charges of dishonesty, and by former cricket star Imran Khan, who campaigned on an anti-corruption platform.

Pre-election surveys had predicted that Sharif would edge out Bhutto. Khan has denounced the two front-runners as thieves and accused the president of planning to fix the voting to put Sharif back in power.

The constitution requires elections within 90 days of the fall of a government, and President Leghari said the interim government he appointed to oversee the vote did not have enough time to eliminate corrupt candidates.

Leghari used his constitutional powers to dismiss Ms. Bhutto's government Nov. 5, two years before her term expired.

He accused her of driving Pakistan toward economic ruin, stealing billions from the national treasury and using police in the southern city of Karachi to quash a rival political movement.

Karachi, long the most violent city in Pakistan, was the first to report election unrest yesterday. The Mohajir Qaumi Movement said one of its poll workers was beaten to death by members of a breakaway MQM faction.

California bombs blamed on drug suspect

VALLEJO (AP) — Bombings at a courthouse and bank were aimed at subverting a drug trial by disrupting the criminal justice system, police said yesterday after arresting two of three suspects.

The third suspect, Kevin Lee Robinson, 29, of Vallejo, hired the two other men to try to prevent his trial on narcotics charges. Lt. Ron Jackson said. Because of prior convictions, he faced the possibility of life in prison, Jackson said.

Robinson, who was considered armed and dangerous, was expected to surrender yesterday, said agent Mike Morrissey of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms bureau in San Francisco.

Federal agents recovered 225 kg of stolen dynamite, an amount that Police Chief Robert Nichelini said could easily have made the series of bombings catastrophic.

Nobody was hurt in the bombings in Vallejo, a city of 112,000 people 60 km northeast of San

Francisco.

"It is our belief that this was a deliberate attempt to stop the criminal justice system from operating in Solano County," Nichelini said.

Francis Ernestberg, 40, and Oston Osotonu, 24, were taken into custody Sunday. All three men face felony conspiracy, burglary and explosive device charges. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent Charles Barnett said Sunday.

Investigators found more than 60 sticks of wired dynamite in the trunk of a car parked outside an apartment complex early that morning, police Sgt. Dave Johnson said. Authorities believe the suspects planned to blow up the car.

That evening, investigators stormed the home of a relative of one of the suspects, uncovering the dynamite and a semiautomatic rifle in the garage, police said. Authorities evacuated a 20-square-block residential area for about four hours.



Flying too low
The wreckage of an Australian Dromader water bomber lies in the remains of a Perth house after it crashed while fighting a near-bushfire yesterday. The pilot walked away with only minor injuries after he clipped one house and then smashed into the next building in the suburb of Maddington in the Western Australian city. Nobody in the house was hurt.

Jury resumes deliberations on Simpson case

SANTA MONICA (AP) — The jury in the O.J. Simpson civil trial resumed its re-started deliberations with a new juror yesterday after a weekend under a judge's orders to ignore all media.

Three days of deliberations were halted Friday when the judge dismissed the panel's only black woman, identified as Rosemary Caraway, 62. She failed to disclose that her daughter is a secretary for the same office that unsuccessfully prosecuted Simpson in the killing of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman.

An Asian-American man who works as a computer programmer was selected from the alternate ranks to replace the dismissed juror. The new jury deliberated for about five hours Friday before breaking off for the weekend.

Relatives of Ms. Simpson and Goldman are suing the former American football star for the June 12, 1994, knife slayings. If the jury decides he was responsible, he could be ordered to pay millions. The case, with its mix of sex, race, wealth and violence, has riveted the American public. Simpson is black, Ms.

Simpson was white. The judge had ended the court week by ordering jurors to stay away from newspapers, radio and television, and to have somebody screen their calls, mail and faxes. Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki also pleaded with the news media not to publish or broadcast any interviews with Ms. Caraway, who had taken part in three days of deliberations before she was excused.

Two jurors from the criminal trial jury are under investigation for allegedly trying to contact members of the civil-trial panel with a letter vouching for the services of a media agent. At least one civil-trial juror got a fax.

Strikes paralyze Bulgaria, Socialists vote

SOFIA (Reuters) - Protests and strikes paralyzed Bulgaria yesterday as the ruling Socialists defied opposition demands by approving a draft cabinet with key posts left unchanged.

City streets, main roads and rail links were blocked around the country and more than 20,000 people, many carrying "No left turn" signs, gathered in Sofia for one of the biggest rallies in four weeks of daily protests fuelled by economic crisis.

"This is the biggest strike Bulgaria has ever had," Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the Podkrepa trade union, told reporters.

Defying opposition demands for a general election, the former communist Socialists approved the draft cabinet by 150 votes to seven.

The outgoing finance, agriculture and energy ministers retain their jobs, and US-born Georgi Pirinski, a prominent critic of the former premier, returns to the for-

ign ministry after resigning last November.

The opposition had refused to discuss the majority party's proposal for a Socialist-led coalition.

Socialist premier-designate Nikolai Dobrev said a one-party cabinet was regrettable but better than no cabinet at all, and he still hoped for dialogue with the opposition.

Main roads out of Sofia were closed and demonstrators in the second city of Plovdiv blocked highways and rail junctions, cutting off the east and north of the country and vowing to stay all night.

"This night will be decisive. Plovdiv will show that it is an unconquerable fortress," said Plovdiv mayor Spas Garnevski.

Demonstrators at Dougnitsa, 60 km south of Sofia, kept up their round-the-clock barricade of road and rail routes to Greece for a sixth day. The Kulata checkpoint with Greece had been closed since yesterday afternoon, police said.

National police chief Hristo Marinov appealed to President Petar Stoyanov, a member of the opposition, and other politicians to find a way of keeping the protests peaceful and avoiding violence.

Dobrev, interior minister in the outgoing cabinet, warned against civil disobedience.

"Peaceful protests are understandable but civil disobedience is outside the law especially in a country with hyperinflation," he told reporters.

"This is not the way to legitimize a political force. The responsibility will be born by the organizers of these actions."

Mines around the country went on strike and Varna port workers vowed to keep up protests until the Socialists agreed not to form a government.

Sofia air traffic controllers closed the airport for planes taking off between 3.30 and 4.30 p.m. Incoming planes were allowed

to land. Distribution workers at Nefrohim, Bulgaria's largest oil refinery, started one-hour daily stoppages on Thursday, though the refinery's biggest problem is a shortage of crude from Russia.

Supplier Rosneft said on Tuesday it had reduced supplies because of unpaid debts and political uncertainty.

Bulgaria has been without effective government since December 21, when prime minister Zhan Videnov resigned after months of criticism of his handling of the economy.

The Balkan state of 8.4 million people urgently needs a credible government to renew talks with international lenders, draw up a state budget for 1997 and set up a tough fixed exchange rate mechanism to halt the collapse of the lev.

Dobrev will present his cabinet to Stoyanov today and it is expected to be voted in by parliament tomorrow.

Fujimori meets Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — The hostage-taking in Peru is not rooted in poverty but in the isolated act of a group claiming to be revolutionaries, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori told hemisphere leaders yesterday before a hastily scheduled meeting with President Clinton.

"We cannot accept that critical poverty is at the root of political violence and that this ... caused such acts as the kidnapping at the Japanese Embassy in Lima, Fujimori told the Organization of American States.

Setting aside concerns of counterterrorism experts, Clinton decided yesterday to meet with Fujimori about the Lima hostage crisis, which began Dec. 17.

Peru essentially has broken terrorism, Fujimori said. "What remains is the criminal, isolated, anarchical, disorderly actions by groups claiming to be made of rebels, terrorists or revolutionaries," he said.

The group holding 72 hostages in the Japanese Embassy has demanded social and economic change and the liberation of comrades held in what they call harsh prison conditions.

Fujimori said the penal system of Peru "is one of most modern in Latin America" and prisoners are held "in a accordance with human rights standards."

In Lima, police drove an armored troop carrier past the Japanese ambassador's residence and blasted sirens to drown out revolutionary chants from terrorists holding 72 hostages inside.

For the most part, though, police honored the pledge by Fujimori that they would not provoke the rebels. The mood outside the walled compound was one of restraint, with none of the actions that in earlier weeks drew gunfire from rebels and criticism from Japan.

President Alberto Fujimori made the pledge Saturday during a meeting in Canada with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. Several Japanese businessmen and the country's ambassador are among the hostages, in addition to Peruvian officials.

'Lancet' editor dies at 73

LONDON (AP) — Ian Munro, a doctor who edited the British medical magazine *The Lancet* and was at the forefront of publishing research papers on AIDS, organ transplants and in vitro fertilization, has died. He was 73.

Munro qualified as a doctor at Guy's Hospital in London in 1946 and joined *The Lancet* as a medical journalist in 1951. He was deputy editor from 1965 until 1976, when he was made editor.

He held the editorship until his retirement from the magazine in 1988.

The Lancet receives more than 4,000 papers a year from researchers around the world and it was Munro's job as editor to select which ones it printed.

He also wrote the magazine's editorials, heavily criticizing the pharmaceutical, tobacco, liquor and food industries for putting profit before people's health.

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A papal visit

Yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Pope John Paul II was the first between these two leaders, but such meetings are no longer considered extraordinary.

ing antisemitism. The current pope has done more than any other to advance this reconciliation through personal example.

What is needed are greater efforts to ensure that the full implications of these statements are taught and understood throughout the Catholic world.

When this pope visits, it will clearly be not only to the Holy Land, but to the State of Israel, and to the capital of Israel, Jerusalem.

Millions of Christian pilgrims are expected to visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Galilee in and around the year 2000.

The agreement to establish relations between Israel and the Vatican was to pave the way for further efforts to "combat all forms of antisemitism."

The Vatican, for its part, is waiting for Israel to formalize the legal and tax status of Church institutions in Israel.

It seems that neither side has any fundamental objection that would block implementation of these aspects of the agreement.

More official statements are not needed. The official stance of the Church regarding antisemitism could not be clearer and more correct.

Israel also should not delay the delicate task of formalizing all aspects of the Church's status in Israel.

In his meeting with the pope, Netanyahu stressed, as has every Israeli leader, Israel's commitment to freedom of religion and preservation of all holy places.

The Vatican would very much like to have a role in the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians regarding the city of Jerusalem.

The Vatican would very much like to have a role in the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians regarding the city of Jerusalem.

IN 1992, when Israel's embassy in Argentina was blown up, killing 24 Argentinians and Israelis including my daughter, all the evidence pointed to Syrian responsibility.



Truth sometimes stings

In a letter to Yitzhak Rabin dated September 1, 1975, president Ford stated clearly: "The US has not developed a final position on the borders [of Israel]."

The letter was Israel's compensation for ceding Egypt the Mitla pass and the Abu Rodeis oil field, which supplied most of Israel's fuel requirements.

In 1989, when, with Syria's help, Ahmed Jibril's Palestinian terrorists blew up Pan-Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland, killing 270 people, president Bush "forgot" the Ford letter.

So anxious was he to assure the ceding of the Golan Heights to Syria that he pinned the blame for the outrage on Libya.

Last year a senior CIA official told the German magazine Focus that he doubts the US will ever admit the truth.

YOHANAN RAMATI

for the car that blew up with the seals of moneychangers in Syria.

But the US again avoided blaming Syria. Instead, it pointed the finger at Iran.

One of the reasons was the US's desire not to "interfere with the peace process."

You can't make peace with a scorpion

with the peace process," namely, ceding the Golan to Syria.

In 1996, 19 Americans were killed at the Dhahran military base in Saudi Arabia, again by a car bomb.

All this would have been impossible, the investigators concluded, without the knowledge and approval of senior Syrian officials.

The writer heads the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense.

that the terrorists were furnished with false passports at Iran's embassy in Damascus, but concluded that President Assad, while expressing readiness to negotiate with Israel, continued to help terrorist movements and states hostile to the West and to the peace process.

(4) One of the main Saudi suspects fled to Syria after the explosion. When his extradition was demanded, he was murdered by Syrian intelligence agents.

TWO questions for new American Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

How much Christian and Jewish blood has to be shed by the Syrians and the terrorists they control before the US honors the undertaking Ford gave Rabin?

If this undertaking is not honored, how can Israel rely on any undertaking it may receive now?

The US ought to be telling Israeli politicians that they should not yield the Golan to Syria.

The writer heads the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense.

Sick & tired

ANN HUTCHINGS

This may be my last year in Israel.

When I arrived here five years ago, I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do. All I knew was that, as a Christian from the US, I loved Israel more than anything else in the whole world.

What have I received from the Israeli government in return for my great love for Israel?

I have been treated like a suspected Hamas terrorist (or at least his girlfriend) by Interior Ministry clerks who yelled and screamed at me for having the nerve to want to extend my visa.

I have been refused visas and extensions of visas. I have been lied to by civil servants, been given false information to make me give up, been generally run around and trampled upon.

I have been chewed out for not having various documents and letters. And even when I had everything required, the extension was still sometimes denied.

My latest experience was the worst because I was not expecting any problems.

I had all the necessary letters and documents. Everything was in order. However, I had not expected the Interior Ministry to raise the cost of renewing visas.

As I scurried about in my purse for loose coins, the clerk grumbled to the one sitting next to her about all the annoying small change I was preparing to unload on her, thinking I didn't understand. Her face registered

I came here with love for Israel in my heart. Now I just want to leave

surprise rather than embarrassment when I told her, "I'm sorry" in Hebrew.

I was just 25 agorot short. But the clerk refused to accept any of my money; she also refused to accept my passport, pushing both away from her rudely, informing me that I would have to return with the full amount.

I left to cash a check. By the time I had completed what surely wasn't such a complex transaction, I was in tears. I'm sure the other people in the hall wondered what tragedy had occurred.

DEALING with the Israeli government bureaucracy has been the most traumatizing experience of my life.

Because I was denied a work permit, I have to work for a nonprofit organization abroad. I receive a small allowance which barely covers my rent and bills.

The reason I have been given this excruciating runaround is simple: The authorities don't want anyone who isn't Jewish to be here for any extended period. (They're not exactly enthralled with the foreign workers either, but with them they feel they have no choice for the present.)

Many Christians come here, like me, out of simple love for Israel and the Jewish people. They are generally not people of means. They usually have no savings, and denial of a work permit means they must work, as I do, for a nonprofit organization as a volunteer.

It takes little imagination to picture the hardships they endure to live here. The spiritual joy they feel doesn't put food in their stomachs, mend their shoes, or keep them warm during the harsh cold.

To say that I am very, very angry and very, very bitter is an understatement.

I have run the gamut. After coming here with love, I have reluctantly decided that all non-Jews should leave Israel.

If you want to eat, you must work illegally. If you want to be here legally, you cannot work. You must be 1,000 times more committed to being here than any Jew.

I don't know anymore if the hardships and sacrifices a non-Jew must make to be in Israel are worth it.

Why am I still here? As I said, I'm thinking about it.

The writer is a journalist living in Jerusalem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEACHING

Sir, - Amotz Asa-El ("Barak's team," January 23) perpetuates a gross canard when he speaks of Abraham Shohat "sanctioning steep salary hikes for teachers, [and] university professors..."

The truth is that, for many years, the teaching profession had suffered continuous erosion of the real value of their salaries, as compared to many other public sectors.

These sectors then used this partial redress to pressurize the public employers to reestablish the unfair differential. This fact merely underlines the secret disdain in which the teaching profession is held by a large part of Israel's policy makers.

AMIEL SCHOTZ Beersheba.

COEXISTENCE IN HEBRON

Sir, - Hebron means a lot to me. My mother was born there and lived there until the 1929 massacre of Jews by Arab rioters. One of the casualties was Rabbi Meir Castel, her grandfather. If it wasn't for a righteous Arab who protected her and her mother, I wouldn't be writing this letter today.

Now that the agreement over Hebron is finally signed, Jewish and Arab Hebronites should realize that, whether they like it or not, they have no other alternative but to coexist.

ISAAC COHEN Wilmette, Illinois.

HIGH JINKS

Sir, - At last a cry in the wilderness. Michal Yudelman has said what is troubling this poor little country ("It's the fat cats that get the extra cream," January 24).

It seems that power corrupts and in the end, there will be nobody to trust. Labor, Likud - they are all the same.

TESS TOISTER Haifa.

CHANGE OF CLIMATE

Sir, - The oft-heard claim - whether voiced in smug tones by the supporters of the previous government or in tones of gloom by the diehards of the national camp - that the current Hebron agreement is no better (if not worse) than its predecessor, does not take into account the change in the psychological climate surrounding it.

CELIA MANOVSKY Givat Shimon.

LUCKY LOSS

Sir, - The luckiest people in the world are the Left wing in Israel, because they lost the last election. They committed the people of Israel to an impossible agreement which could not be terminated.

HERBERT GRAUS Jerusalem.

THE PLO COVENANT

Sir, - The new Hebron accord includes something about revising the PLO covenant to destroy Israel.

I wonder what Mr. Peres thinks about that. After all, he says it was already done. I also wonder if any of the press will ask him about this.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ Elazar.

The spotlight on the Swiss

A cartoon so vile that it immediately evokes associations with the Nazi Der Stuermer appeared recently in a Swiss newspaper called 24 Hours. It depicts a row of grotesque Jews clad in black praying at a Western Wall constructed of gold bricks.

Thus the Jewish people serve Mammon, we are shown. Or might that be more true of the Swiss people and their government?

Let the facts speak for themselves.

In 1946, the Allies persuaded a reluctant Swiss government to "violate" the famed secrecy of the Swiss banks and disclose the extent of the German holdings in them.

The Swiss had been highly reluctant to them. Germans who deposited their wealth in Switzerland prior to, during, and after the war were not enemies, but good, solid clients, future customers.

Heavy American pressure, however, forced the Swiss to sign the 1946 Washington accord, under whose terms they were compelled to catalogue and examine every account, title and safe-deposit box that might conceal a German asset.

What did this investigation show? It yielded a billion Swiss francs, then worth about a quarter of a billion dollars, today 10 times as much.

Half belonged to Germans long resident in Switzerland, or Germans who had lived elsewhere outside Germany for many years. The other half was shown to be wartime transfers to the Swiss banks from Germany.

ALEXANDER ZVIELLI

belonging to Hitler himself was uncovered much later.

But there was evidence that German funds deposited in Swiss banks were used to set up dummy subsidiaries and holding companies worldwide. One such was the American General Aniline and Film belonging to A.G. Farbindustrie.

The Allies and the Swiss differed fundamentally over the extent of the German holdings.

It must be widened to include German deposits registered by the Allies after the war

ferred fundamentally over the extent of the German holdings. The Swiss suggested that the dispute be referred to neutral international arbitration, with the proviso that they themselves be granted half the assets to be liquidated, in return "for services and materials rendered."

The Allies accepted the condition but turned down the proposal for international arbitration, fearing more long years of negotiations while the cash so badly needed to aid a ravaged Europe was held up.

In the event, the final agreement threw a few bones to the Allies: \$30m. to the US, the same to Britain. Switzerland was left a rich country.

THE 1930s found Germany with a severe foreign exchange deficit, and with its monetary and gold reserves sunk alarmingly. Historians agree that these severe economic straits may well have been a central motivating factor in Hitler's decision to go

to war. There are a number of possible sources of the \$250,000,000 of German money discovered in Swiss coffers after the war.

Some German companies, seeing the writing on the wall, may have decided to salt away their assets in a safe place. And what could be safer than a Swiss bank vault?

Then, the German elite, sensitive to the possibility of Germany's collapse, might have sought to safeguard their nest eggs outside the country.

Again, some German firms implicated in arms dealing and fearful of seeing their assets seized one day by the Allies, may have opted for the security and secrecy of the silent Swiss.

But there can be little doubt: At least part of those German funds found in Swiss banks resulted from the looting of Jewish property.

With the traumatized Jewish survivors languishing in displaced persons camps, no Allied negotiator thought to raise the question of any property or assets they might have owned prior to the war.

The Swiss government has belatedly agreed to allow the investigation of Jewish deposits in Switzerland before the outbreak of war, and of the so-called dormant accounts. That is a welcome development, though at least one bank has tried to shred vital documents.

But what about the German holdings in Switzerland - bank accounts and other deposits, including art works and jewelry? This too must now come under the spotlight.

No reports of Swiss Jews afraid to walk in the streets wearing kip-pot, scare tactics or antisemitic daubs should deter this investigation.

The writer is a freelancer.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

THEATER FESTIVAL REVIEW

A world of 'Impotence' and gay love

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Three off-off-Fringe offerings mark a serious advance in quality and style in both the writing and performance level of original Hebrew plays. *Impotence* (punned in Hebrew, *En-Potentzia* meaning "Mum Power") is osten-

and Noam Ben-Azar, handle a poetic but theatrically problematic text with the delicacy and indirectness it demands. Strangled in their unavowed emotions, they are obliged to let the drama stagnate too.

For it is the resistance to a lifelong relationship paralyzing these two lovers that halts the inner dynamic of the play.

It takes well over an hour before these inarticulate, inexpressive sabras can bring themselves to say: "I love you." The interval is fleshed out with the analogy of the mythic games dramatized in a symbolic shadow play and illustrated by flashbacks to the ironic innocence of their strapping sabra childhood.

Imaginative, evocative, and poetic as the material is, the tragedy of suppressed sexual identity and the lifelong lie lived out by this pair, is too tenuous, intense, and overly suggestive to hold audience interest at the level it deserves.

IMPORTED LABOR moves from satirical suture to outright farce in this generally genial review of the recent takeover of the labor force, one of the ideological bastions of an older Zionism, by foreign workers.

A feisty early settler (Geula Nouni) is dedicated to the principle of Hebrew Labor on the Land. Her wheeler-dealer son (Paulie Reshef), the embodiment of the Ugly Israeli, in order to save himself from the clutches of the local Russian mafia, tries to con his mother into selling her orange grove, the last remaining remnant of her old Eretz Yisrael.

The foreign worker Nahman (Moussa Abadi), another "good soldier Schweik," is a towering figure in this comic triangle. Abadi's take-off of the "hebraized" Romanian is hilarious.

Finally, in what is yet another projection of the Zionist-dream-fulfilled seen from an older but not less painful perspective, man moans, "What you've done with my Medina!"

HASIMTA THEATER
WINTER FESTIVAL
OLD JAFFA

IMPOTENCE

(En-Potentzia)

By Ofer Reshef.

KINGDOM OF THE GEESE

(Mamlechet Ha'avezim)

By Shariit Abergail.

IMPORTED LABOR

(Avoda Zara)

By Roy Rashkes.

sibly a disco-opera with underpinnings of rap, rock, and even blues thrown in. Its haunting musical quality is heard at its best in the vocals of Davit Gabish, an engaging young actress with a compelling voice and manner.

But at a far deeper emotive and intellectual level it is seriously disturbing. Though pop humor, irrepressible invective and energy give it the accustomed adolescent panache, it strikes significantly deeper than does the usual slaughter of sacred cows.

Its satire, cynical and startling as it is deadly, focuses on our national foibles and failings. Mortality in military service, the ache of single mothers, and the flaming fundamentalism of the reborn religious are among them. Rather than the usual larks of rebellious teenagers, this piece carries the despairing cry of a disillusioned, prematurely pessimistic follow-on generation.

KINGDOM OF the Geese is, to my knowledge, the first time Israeli artists have come out of the closet and aired the issue of homosexuality on an Israeli stage.

It is a very tentative start. Two very sensitive actors, Yair Neshet



In 'Kingdom of the Geese,' actors Noam Ben-Azar (left) and Yair Neshet address the issue of homosexuality with great sensitivity.

'Temporary Assignment' for tomorrow's filmmakers

By HELEN KAYE

'Sound rolling! Camera! Action!' And two sets of students got going, one lot behind the camera and the other in front of it.

During the last two weeks, eight Camera Obscura third-year film students got to practice their craft in a professional setting while Nissan Nativ's acting students honed their on-camera skills. Each of the eight writers/directors has filmed a two- to three-minute scene with actors chosen from among the 13-strong, senior class at Nativ.

It has been a positive experience all around, and "I was surprised and delighted with the results I got," said Alon Feig, 25, who filmed a scene from his final project, a 20-minute drama called *Temporary Assignment*.

Fellow student director/author Natanel Eizenberg, whose scene came from her screenplay *A Romantic Movie*, had "a good experience working with student actors and an unforgettable high learning how to work in a professional setting."

"It's been a whole new and important experience," says 24-year-old Amit Pachler, who agreed with fellow student actor Michael Kaitmazov, 26, that "I like being able to switch off, and

work in small segments. It's a different kind of energy, more intimate."

The two actors watched fascinated as the film crew shifted equipment. The set-up for each scene took about nine hours, "because this is a workshop where the process, not the product, is important, and each teacher had something to say," laughed Gur Heller, the supervisor on Feig's section.

The workshop, which will probably be repeated next year, grew from a mutually perceived need. Nativ, founder and director of his 33-year-old theater school, has recently added acting for the camera to the curriculum. He decided to approach Camera Obscura just when Akiva Tevet, head of film and video at the school, was musing that after two intensive years his students undergo "a certain letdown as they contemplate their finals."

"The joint workshop, he said, reduces the uncertainties and allows the student directors to come to grips with all aspects of a production without fear of failure."

And now that they're done in Tel Aviv, they're going to do it all over again at Nativ's Jerusalem Studio together with Bama'aleh, a cinema school whose students are from the religious community. "But," jokes Nativ, "the camera doesn't wear a kippa."

A virtuoso who unites extremes

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

They come from Russia, they live in Spain and they perform at least once a year in Israel. They are the acclaimed Moscow Virtuosi, founded by Vladimir Spivakov, one of the world's leading violinists/conductors. And in the next couple of weeks this refined chamber music ensemble will tour the country in a variety of programs ranging from the popular works of Vivaldi to less familiar ones by Shostakovich.

In contrast to the 25 members of his ensemble, Spivakov, 51, resides in Paris. Or as he puts it, "my children live in Paris, I live in hotels." In a phone conversation from Paris, in between concert tours, Spivakov mentions that there are a few locales where he makes a point of appearing annually: Paris, New York, Rome, Spain and Israel.

This time around Spivakov plays the solo part and leads his ensemble in Vivaldi's ever-popular *The Four Seasons*. But in contrast to many

violinists who play this work on a regular basis, Spivakov avoided it for many years.

"I only began performing this work five years ago when I realized that I can play it in my particular way. I look at *The Four Seasons* as a fresco of human life, from birth till death, from young love to disappointment. These are the four seasons of a human being and as a human being is after all a part of nature, so we too are within the realms of nature."

He couples Vivaldi with Shostakovich in the same program because "Extremes go well together."

Spivakov and his ensemble left their native Russia five-and-a-half years ago but the fact that they are now based in Paris and Spain does not mean that they have disconnected their ties to Russia. In fact Spivakov and the ensemble perform there regularly.

And above that, Spivakov has founded the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Fund for

Musicians, "to help talented young musicians throughout the former Soviet Union, not just in Russia. We buy instruments for young children and we pay for medical help when it's needed."

"There was this case of a 13-year-old boy who was suffering from leg cancer. Before, he could not even reach the pedals, now, after the operation, he can walk and play." Spivakov himself puts on as many charity concerts as his busy schedule allows.

Here, most of the Moscow Virtuosi concerts were always attended by Russian-speaking audiences who fill the halls and pamper the musicians with their adoration.

The non-Russians were not always aware of these concerts because of lack of publicity in the non-Russian press. This, however, has changed for the current tour. And who knows, it might even lead to an eventual invitation to Spivakov to come and perform, as soloist or conductor, with one of



To Vladimir Spivakov, 'The Four Seasons' is 'a fresco of human life.'

our orchestras. But, until that day arrives, local music lovers will have to settle for Spivakov and his own ensemble, the Moscow Virtuosi.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Amateurish 'Porgy'; humorous 'Hen'



George Gershwin

In Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, performed by the Jerusalem Rubin Academy's opera workshop, the main singers displayed evidence of thorough training, and their natural qualities sounded enjoyable. And that is what matters most, after all, being a student production. One can only imagine that Riki Guy, Noah Brigger, Shaul Contini and, in a minor role, debutante Jrit Stark may develop, under proper coaching, into credible Bess, Porgy, Crown and Serena.

The rest was embarrassingly amateurish. From a music academy, especially one that boasts an orchestra, one expects more than a mere piano accompaniment.

The absence of an orchestra, nevertheless, did not prevent Aharon Harlap from conducting a singer-conductor-piano, gesturing as if he had an imaginary symphony orchestra in front of him, in a manner that was as ridiculous as it was superfluous. Equally superfluous was Assaf Levin's phraseological and content-distorting narration - a device that no self-respecting opera production would nowadays resort to.

The direction was on a naive high-school-party level. Conclusive throwing about of the soloists' and chorus girls' limbs were the misdeeds on scene's most ingenious achievement. If the academy cannot afford an expert director, a concert-version performance would

light hand and brilliant virtuosity. Yet his polish was achieved at the expense of some musical aspects.

The first movement's seriousness lacked the young Mozart's characteristic smile. Matter-of-factness was substituted for the songful melancholy of the slow movement. Through the final movement the pianist raced in a manner reminiscent of an exercise from Czerny's *School of Finger-Drill*.

Jerusalem Theater, January 25.
Ury Eppstein

have been preferable.
Wise Auditorium, January 26.
Ury Eppstein

CONDUCTOR Avner Biron worked wonders with the Israel Camerata in its Subscription Concert Number 4. The orchestra's sound was a pure pleasure, coming close to a fulfillment of wishful thinking, in Haydn's "Hen" Symphony (No. 83) and Vaughan-Williams's *Fantasia on a Theme by Tallis*. The playing was sonorous and well-rounded, classically articulated with uncompromisingly transparent textures, elastic vivacity, significantly held general pauses, and delicate humor in Haydn. In Mozart's Piano Concerto in E flat major, soloist Alexander Korsantiya displayed an admirably

WHEN countertenor Andreas Scholl sang the tragic story of Lord Randall, one sensed the singer's involvement with the music. And indeed the English section of his program was more engaging than the German section which opened the evening and suggested a rather limited choice of repertoire.

Scholl is a fine countertenor; his instrument pure, clear and agile. Yet on this occasion the program was somewhat limiting to the overall possibilities of the voice and instead of an evening of countertenor singing at its best, we had to settle for fine and refined singing of a repertoire that rather soon became boring and repetitious. Both Scholl and the full house in attendance deserved much more.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, January 24.
Michael Ajzenstadt

IN TUNE

Return to grass roots for different shades of blues

By DAVID BRINN

These two double-CD compilations provide a dazzling overview of contemporary blues and bluegrass, as chronicled by one of the US's finest independent labels, Rounder Records.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the eclectic Boston-based company compiled two specially priced anthologies covering the label's main interests.

DEEP BLUE - 25 YEARS OF BLUES
Various Artists
(Rounder)

HAND-PICKED - 25 YEARS OF BLUEGRASS
Various Artists
(Rounder)

UGLY BEAUTIFUL
Babybird
(Hed Artzt)

GLOW
Reef
(NMC)

Deep Blue proves that blues comes in a variety of different shades, each of them more subtle than the other. Whether it's the down-and-dirty Chicago blues of The Nighthawks and J.B. Hutto, the Delta growl of Robert Jr. Lockwood or the big band sound of Roomful of Blues, the common denominator is authentic American blues played with feeling.

Hand-Picked performs the same task with bluegrass. An overwhelming array of talent, from Bela Fleck and David Grisman to Rounder's musical superstars Alison Krauss and Ricky Skaggs work up a full head of steam that will send you straight to Appalachia.

The discs and the rest of the Rounder catalog are available exclusively in Israel through Paul's CD Service at P.O.B. 9029 Jerusalem, 91090.

If you've had enough of '90s music, go back to the roots with the real thing.

THE GUITAR pop of *Ugly Beautiful*, by a truly eccentric British soul named Steven Jones, is a gem.

Jones, who toiled away for years writing and recording over 400 songs on his home four-track tape recorder, eventually released some of them on four do-it-yourself discs.

The word-of-mouth buzz finally landed him a record deal, prompting him to form Babybird and re-record some of his earlier times and a handful of new songs. The supple sing-along "You're Gorgeous" has quickly become a British radio staple.

Tinges of The Cure and Echo & the Bunnymen pop up throughout this idiosyncratic batch of songs, but with a much sadder outlook.

Some of the titles alone prepare you for what's in store. "Jesus is My Girlfriend," "Bad Shave" and "45 and Fat" are good introductions to Jones's magical world, in



Alison Krauss and band's bluegrass sound will have you pinning for the Appalachians.

which hooks and arrangements are the boss.

At times wistful and other times

wild, *Ugly Beautiful* is too refreshing to pass up.

A YOUNG British band that bucks all current trends and returns to the rock-blues tradition set down by Free, The Faces, and a combo called The Rolling Stones. On their second album, Reef sound like a one-band early '70s revival. Gary Stringer possesses a good-natured gruff voice that sounds just right in front of the chunky riffs and steady beats of his bandmates.

The kickoff "Place Your Hands" is a natural single that will have you singing along in no time. There may be nothing new here but you won't hear anyone else in Britain playing this kind of music with such authority.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE
#1	6	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#2	1	OST	EVITA
#3	4	NO DOUBT	TRIGIC KINGDOM
#4	2	VA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#5	3	12	SPICE GIRLS
#6	11	9	EHUD BANAI
#7	25	6	VIA
#8	7	3	MIKA KARNI
#9	5	23	RAMI KLEINSTEIN
#10	14	10	ENIGMA
#11	17	48	SHLOMO ARTZI
#12	9	45	RITA
#13	13	2	VIA
#14	9	39	GEORGE MICHAEL
#15	18	11	VAYA CON DIOS

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

"Hope" The Jewel of Peace

Beautiful gifts FOR HIM and FOR HER - from the "Hope" collection by the Jerusalem artist Elyane Cohen Ashbey. The dove, symbol of peace from time immemorial, is depicted in a handshake - one hand in 24 carat gold, the other in 925 sterling silver. These beautiful items express the artist's hope for a better future for all peoples of the world.



TO: c/o The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

Please send me following items from the Hope Collection:

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* Please add NIS 15.00 for door-to-door delivery (where available) in Israel, or overseas registered airmail.

Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details:

Visa Isracard Diners

Number: _____ Exp: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Code: _____ ID No: _____

Tel. (day): _____ Signature: _____

BUSINESS

in brief

Internal revenues NIS500m. short of plans

Internal revenues in the last three months (November-January) reached NIS 25 billion, a one percent real increase from the same period 12 months earlier, according to data published yesterday by the Finance Ministry.

However, the January total of NIS 8.6b. is still some NIS 500 million lower than the Treasury's original forecasts for fiscal 1997.

Income and purchase taxes accounted for NIS 13.1b., up 1% on the equivalent period last year, with customs duty and VAT bringing in NIS 11.4b., also up 1%. The remaining NIS 500m. came from non-tax income.

David Harris

Tel Aviv-Bersheeba train line to resume

A limited train service between Tel Aviv and Beersheba will begin operating on February 16, after a 17-year cessation in that line's activity. Initially, trains will only run on Sundays and Thursdays.

On Sunday the train will depart Tel Aviv central station at 9 a.m., with the return trip leaving at 12:17 p.m. On Thursdays the train will depart Tel Aviv at 1:52 p.m. and from Beersheba at 5:05 p.m.

Journey time will be an hour and forty minutes, with stops at Lod and Kiryat Gat. Based on the success of these journeys the service could be expanded later in the year.

David Harris

Pharmos seeks FDA approval for new drug

Pharmos, a Rehovot-based biopharmaceutical company, yesterday announced it has submitted a new drug application with the US Food and Drug Administration for a novel ophthalmic anti-allergy product.

The unnamed product contains loteprednol etabonate, a site-specific steroid developed by Pharmos which is designed for the treatment of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis, an ocular allergy that affects 10% - 20% of the general population. Bausch & Lomb Pharmaceuticals, Inc. will manufacture and market the product in the US and other countries upon receiving marketing clearance.

Jennifer Friedlin

Employers to pay for part of workers' absence

The Knesset plenum yesterday approved a new law requiring employers to pay the National Insurance Institute contributions for first nine days of an employee's absence following an accident at work.

The measure has come into force retroactively from the start of this year.

David Harris

Workers ask to purchase 20% of Israel Chemicals

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel Chemicals Ltd. workers' representatives yesterday asked the Knesset Finance Committee and Government Companies Authority to allow them to buy 20 percent of shares in the company.

The committee is expected today to allow the sale of 41.237% of the government's shares in the company in the coming weeks.

Currently, shares in ICL are split between the government (48.5%), the Eisenberg Group (24.9% - which was sold in 1995 as the controlling share), and publicly traded shares (26.6%).

The publicly owned shares include 2.5% entrusted for the workers.

According to a 1995 agreement signed by the government and company chairman Shoul Eisenberg, the latter will be given the first opportunity to purchase the 20% of state shares about to be offered.

However, the workers are demanding the right to be able to

purchase these shares and to be allowed representation at board level.

"This is still a possibility," said MK Haim Oron (Meretz), after yesterday's debate in the committee. "There's a good chance Eisenberg won't buy the shares, so we must in the meantime find a way for the workers to be able to buy the shares."

This suggestion was dismissed last night as "total nonsense" by a source close to Eisenberg.

The agreement between the government and Eisenberg stipulates that he may purchase the shares based on their average price in the 90 days preceding the offer. If Eisenberg declines, then the shares will be open to normal competition from prospective investors.

Today's vote is likely to give the Government Companies Authority the green light to sell 20% of ICL. "While we begin the process of selling the shares, the workers and MKs can continue their deliberations," said authority director-gen-

eral Tzipi Livni.

At the conclusion of the meeting, committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) instructed Oron and Michael Kleiner (Gesher) to come up with a practical proposal within two weeks that will allow for greater involvement of the workforce with the increased privatization of the company.

During the committee's debate, wider fears of attacks on workers' rights in the age of privatization were discussed.

"I'm not sure the same story as is currently unfolding at Haifa Chemicals won't also take place with ICL," warned Nissim Dahan (Shas).

If the rumors are true that Eisenberg wants to sell various subsidiary companies, we want guarantees that the workers won't be thrown into the garbage," said Galila Horenstein, a lawyer representing several workers' groups.

Answering these general fears, Livni told the committee that conditions are unlikely to change that

much because, since acquiring the controlling shares, Eisenberg has effectively been running the company.

She also pointed out that government-appointed directors will continue to sit on the board. However, she questioned the timing of the workers' complaints. "This was all agreed in 1995," she said. "Why are the workers objecting now?"

Visiting the committee, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) urged the immediate sale of as much of ICL as possible. "The prices now are the best for doing this. Sell it all now."

Following the sale of 20% of ICL shares, the Government Companies Authority will begin considering how to sell the remaining 28% of shares still held by the government.

The company, which accounts for some 4% of Israel's total production and 6%-7% of industrial production, was valued at \$1.15-\$1.20 billion on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in early January.

Foreign currency restrictions eased

By DAVID HARRIS and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Israelis will find it easier to purchase foreign currency from today, after the Bank of Israel announced yesterday a series of measures aimed at liberalizing the laws controlling currency exchange.

Four main proposals will take immediate effect:

*Citizens can now deposit more from foreign currency loans.

*It is now possible for Israelis to buy any foreign securities, either abroad or via a local broker.

*Citizens can now purchase foreign currency at commercial banks, up to the value of \$7,000, without having to provide proof of travel, such as an airline ticket.

*Israelis living abroad may take with them their assets over the course of five years, starting two years after the date they leave the country. Each year they may remove 20 percent, or \$50,000, whichever is higher.

The changes come at a time when the shekel is excessively strong, currently at the lowest level permitted by the central bank's diagonal mechanism.

The central bank anticipates these measures will create more market demand for foreign currency, consequently weakening the shekel.

However, the timing was described last night as "purely coincidental" by bank spokesman Ohad Bar-Efrat. "We have been liberalizing the restrictions on currency exchange since 1987, and this is only one more step in that direction. There is no doubt its timing will help, but we intended announcing these measures now, whatever the circumstances."

A more significant, wide-reaching package is currently being discussed between the bank and Treasury, both bodies confirmed last night, but neither would detail what is being proposed or when a further announcement can be expected.

The liberalizations announced yesterday will have a marginal impact on the capital market in the near term, bankers said, although they emphasized that they have not yet had an opportunity to examine the changes in detail.

The bankers said most of the measures will be easy to implement, since they are more or less technical steps which will have only a psychological effect on the public.

"We are in the right direction to making the shekel into a convertible currency," said the head of one of the large banks trading rooms. "The announcement is an indication that the Bank of Israel will proceed with the foreign currency reforms."

Another banker was less optimistic. "From what we understand, most of the measures will not have much of an impact on the dollar-shekel market. The market expected the Bank of Israel to announce these steps a long time ago."

The most important step in the immediate term is permitting companies and individuals to deposit foreign currency raised abroad, like in the Eurobond market, into foreign currency accounts, said the bankers.

"Today large firms like Israel Electric Corp. have to convert the dollars they raise abroad into shekels within a short period," a banker said. "This puts pressure on the shekel. In the last couple of weeks there has been much of pressure on the market because of this."

"If a company's expenses are in shekels and income is in dollars it will continue to face the same problems," another banker said. "The low-dollar, high-shekel rates are derived from the differential in interest rates."



More money now
Employees of Allied Banking Corp., majority owned by Filipino tycoon Lucio Tan, bang their wooden clogs during a demonstration outside their offices in the Philippines' Makati financial center yesterday to demand salary increases. (Reuters)

COMPANY RESULTS

Logan reports \$2 million in losses

Logal Educational Software & Systems Ltd has reported yearly losses of \$2.07 million, compared to \$1.08m. in 1995. Fourth-quarter net losses totalled \$580,000, up from \$420,000 one year ago.

Revenue for the year jumped 32 percent to \$6.71m. from \$5.10m. Revenue for the fourth quarter also rose, from \$1.35m. to \$1.46m.

Logal CEO Yoel Givoli said the company succeeded in increasing revenues, despite a slowdown in the overall multimedia and educational software market.

The company, which is headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts and has corporate headquarters in Hatzor, designs, creates and publishes interactive simulation-based, educational software for curriculum in high schools and colleges.

Logal recently launched the first phase of Logal.Net, an Internet site that enables 600 interactive, simulation-based lessons for schools and individuals.

Jennifer Friedlin

M-Systems loses almost \$1 million in '96

M-Systems Flash Disk Pioneers Ltd. of Tel Aviv yesterday reported a drop in net losses from \$2.75m. to \$987,000 last year. Fourth quarter net losses totalled \$519,000, down from \$602,000 in 1995.

Revenues for the year soared 80% to \$11.75m. from \$6.53m. In the fourth quarter, revenues fell slightly to \$2.14m. from \$2.58m. in the same quarter of 1995.

The developer of software and hardware data storage solutions based on flash memory attributed the loss to continued losses from the company's subsidiary Eurom FlashWare Solutions Ltd.

M-Systems has decided to close down the active operations of Eurom to focus on the company's core business and minimize expenses not related to such business.

Meanwhile, the company also announced it has signed a letter of intent to acquire C-One Technology, a privately held Taiwan-based company, and Pretec Electronics Corp., its majority-owned US subsidiary, in exchange for 1.163 million shares of M-Systems.

Jennifer Friedlin

IAI, Galaxy Aerospace ink business jet deal

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

NEW YORK (AP) - Israel Aircraft Industries and Chicago's Pritzker family say they will build a new line of business jets offering intercontinental travel at lower prices than comparable aircraft.

The private US corporation, called Galaxy Aerospace, combines the financial resources of one of America's wealthiest families with the expertise of a highly sophisticated aerospace company.

An estimated 2,600 mid-sized jets are used around the world, about three-quarters in the US. A recent industry survey predicted worldwide demand for business planes to reach 4,400 units worth \$57 billion by 2007, with growing use in western Europe and Latin America.

"Everybody is launching new aircraft at the moment. That reflects the very buoyant market, but it also shows the competition has never been so fierce," said Philip Butterworth-Hayes, editor of *Jane's Aircraft Components* in London.

He said the Galaxy jet's \$14.5 million price will help fill a niche between \$10m. mid-sized jets and

larger intercontinental jets that cost more than \$20m.

But products by France's Dassault and planned by Raytheon, as well as the second-hand market, could provide competition.

Galaxy planned to formally announce its establishment today. "We have a strong balance sheet. We are well capitalized, and we are well positioned," Galaxy chief executive Brian Barents said.

The company's flagship airplane, the Galaxy, will seat eight to 19 people and have a range of nearly 4,000 nautical miles (7,400 kilometers). That would cover many popular business routes, including New York to Paris, New York to Los Angeles, Tokyo to Singapore, and Los Angeles to Caracas.

The company said the project would involve an \$80m. investment to certify the new aircraft with regulators.

No other financial details were released.

Industry reports say the Pritzkers, whose holdings include the Hyatt hotel chain, are financing about 80 percent of the deal and IAI about 20%. Barents, a former Learjet chief executive and executive with Cessna, is also a partner.

The Galaxy, under development in Israel since 1993, should be ready for delivery in late 1998. About 20 orders have been placed, and Barents expects annual revenues to hit \$600m.

Whether it can reach that goal depends on the competition and the marketplace, which has picked up around the world in recent years.

IAI is involved in military aircraft upgrades, commercial aircraft modification, radar and missile defense systems, satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles.

But its business jet, the Astra SPX, has been hampered by poor marketing and product support in the US, Barents said.

Clal Insurance seeks foreign partner

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A large US insurance firm is in preliminary discussions with Clal Israel to invest in Clal Insurance Holdings, the holding company's insurance subsidiary, a spokesman for the company confirmed yesterday.

Clal Insurance Holdings is one of the largest insurance firms in the country. The group consists of Clal Insurance, Ararat, Aryeh and Eitan insurance companies.

Clal management is interested in finding a foreign investor for Clal Insurance as part of the group's policy to partner with strategic international investors in all fields of activity, the spokesman said.

He said the company is mainly interested in establishing a partnership with an international insurance firm which will help it develop new financial instruments to the very competitive local insurance industry.

About two weeks ago, Clal Insurance general manager Rimon Ben-Shaul met with the management of a very large US insurance firm for the first time, according to an insurance source, who emphasized that nothing has happened since then.

"It will take at least another month to see if anything comes out of the discussions," the source said.

In recent months the insurance sector has experienced a major change in structure, mainly due to Bank Leumi's sale of its controlling share in Migdal to Italy's Assicurazioni Generali. Migdal is one of Clal Insurance major competitors.

Other foreign insurance companies interested in investing in the local market include the US-based American Insurance Group, which intends to establish a new insurance company in partnership with

the Aurec Group. The new firm will engage in the direct insurance market.

Clal Insurance is one of the Clal Group's more profitable subsidiaries.

The company completed the first nine months last year with a 130-percent rise in net profits to NIS 93.7 million from NIS 93.7m. in the same period in 1995. The growth in earnings was mainly due to a recovery in the vehicle insurance sector, reflecting a drop in automobile thefts.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
French franc (FF 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.2.97)					
CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS	BUY		SELL		Rep. Rate
	BUY	SELL	BUY	SELL	
U.S. dollar	3.9947	3.6327	3.29	3.39	3.6287
German mark	3.2975	3.3408	1.95	2.07	2.0189
French franc	2.0000	2.0323	5.17	5.48	5.3228
Japanese yen (100)	0.9823	0.6019	0.58	0.62	0.5870
Dutch guilder	2.6840	2.7375	2.94	2.78	2.7200
Swiss franc	1.7827	1.8086	1.75	1.84	1.7944
Swedish krona	2.5364	2.3457	2.28	2.38	2.3294
Norwegian krona	0.4501	0.4574	0.44	0.47	0.4544
Denmark kroner	0.5094	0.5148	0.49	0.53	0.5094
Finnish mark	0.5243	0.5328	0.51	0.55	0.5285
Canadian dollar	0.6898	0.6907	0.65	0.70	0.6765
Australian dollar	2.4441	2.4536	2.40	2.52	2.4844
S. African rand	2.5118	2.5522	2.48	2.59	2.5524
Belgian franc (10)	0.7254	0.7372	0.65	0.74	0.7398
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9626	0.9835	0.95	1.00	0.9772
Italian lira (1000)	2.8424	2.8883	2.79	2.83	2.8655
Egyptian pound	2.0276	2.0804	1.99	2.09	2.0445
Jordanian dinar	4.5700	4.8800	4.57	4.88	4.6650
Egyptian pound	0.9400	1.0200	0.94	1.02	1.0461
Irish punt	3.8951	3.9298	3.89	3.98	3.8987
Spanish peseta (100)	5.2206	5.3048	5.19	5.30	5.2721
	2.9578	2.9980	2.91	2.98	2.9763

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns for AMEX and NASDAQ, listing various Israeli companies and their share prices.

Table titled 'LAST CHANGE' listing various Israeli companies and their share prices.

Table titled 'LAST CHANGE' listing various Israeli companies and their share prices.

TASE ROUNDUP

Shares at record high

Mishtanim 256.04 ▲2.85%
Maof 265.63 ▲3.21%

Stock indexes hit a record high yesterday as the shekel weakened against the dollar after the Bank of Israel eased some foreign currency supervision.

Exporters, including Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest industrial concern, and its subsidiary Tadiran Ltd. led gains. Koor rose 3.75 percent and Tadiran soared 6.25%.

Tadiran, a telecommunications equipment maker, was also boosted by a news report investor George Soros may be interested in buying its shares.

The Maof Index of 25 issues rose 3.21% to 265.63 and the Mishtanim Index rose 2.85% to 256.04.

The general bond index rose 0.19%. The Maof Index hit its previous all-time high of 258.37 on January 16, 1994.

Of 969 shares trading across the exchange, more than eight times as many shares rose as fell. NIS 259.2 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 83.8 million above Sunday's level and more than three times December's daily average of NIS 84.6 million.

"The market's on the run," said Daniella Firm, head of sales at Tel Aviv firm Batscha Securities & Investments Ltd. "A high dollar is

good for the market. Since the Bank of Israel said it was liberalizing, people believe the dollar will have a bit of a run."

On the Maof Index, Israel Chemicals Ltd. rose 4% and Makhsheshim Chemicals Works rose 2.25%. Agan Chemical Manufacturers rose 4.25%, Dead Sea Bromine rose 0.25% and Dead Sea Works closed unchanged.

Elite Industries Ltd., a coffee and chocolate maker, rose 4.5%. Elite gained as investors speculated France's Danone may buy shares in the company, said Finn Danone on Sunday purchased 20 percent of privately-held Nehariya Dairy Strauss Ltd., the Strauss family holds a stake in Elite.

Banking shares also rose, with Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank, rising 4%. Bank Leumi, the country's second biggest bank, rose 3%; First International Bank of Israel Ltd. rose 3.25%.

(Bloomberg)

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table listing Mishtanim leading 100 Tase issues with columns for company name and price.

Table listing various companies and their share prices.

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Table titled 'Key Representative Rates' listing US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

Table titled 'NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES' listing various market indices.

Table titled 'NYSE STOCKS' listing various NYSE stocks.

Table titled 'DOLLAR CROSSEXTS (US)' listing various dollar cross rates.

Table titled 'SPOT MARKET METALS (US)' listing various spot market metals.

Table titled 'NEW YORK METAL FUTURES' listing various New York metal futures.

Table titled 'LONDON METAL FUTURES' listing various London metal futures.

Table titled 'LONDON COMMODITIES' listing various London commodities.

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Most Euro shares down, DAX at all-time high

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses slipped yesterday, except in Germany, which closed at a record high as interest rate jitters and a weaker Wall Street encouraged profit-taking after the long bull run.

The dollar retreated from highs early in the day, but the nagging worry for both equity and foreign exchange markets was whether an interest rate rise will emerge from a US Federal Reserve committee meeting starting today.

Economists expect no rate rises when monetary authorities meet on both sides of the Atlantic this week, including the two-day meeting of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC).

But few investors are confident enough to take chances, in London and Paris at least, as the FOMC meeting will open on the third anniversary of an unexpected US interest rate hike which sent share prices tumbling around the globe.

British and French investors found plenty of excuses to stay on the sidelines yesterday or take profits after their markets closed at record highs on Friday.

An unpredictable Wall Street, which started sliding late on Friday and opened weaker again on Monday, provided the immediate depressant.

US stocks dip slightly

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stock prices ended slightly lower yesterday as investors jumped to the sidelines, unwilling to take chances ahead of the start today of the Federal Open Market Committee's two-day meeting on interest rates.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended off 6.93 points at 6,806.16. In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a small margin on moderate volume of 465 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

WHERE TO GO

Museums: TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andres Serrano: The Morgue, Soviet Photography from the Museum collection, Lucien Freud: selection of works, Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower, Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists, Visual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art, HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shmueli: The Inverted Campaign, Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tel. 6919155-5.

HAIFA: WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374263.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Center Pharm, 20 Yad Harutim, 673-1475; Baisam, Salah e-Din, 827-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 629-2058.

Tel Aviv: Benuya, 174 Dizegoffi, 522-Tel Aviv; Superpharm, 4 Shavit, Hamaresh, 698-0115. Ramat Gan: Ramat Gan, 774-1613. Netanya: Clal-Pharm, 60 Binyamin, 823-5091. Herzliya: Dorech Hayarn, 209 Dorech Hayarn, 837-1472.

Medical help for tourists (in English): 177-0229-110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-821-8205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poison.

Erant - Emotional First Aid, 1201, also: Jerusalem 541-0303, Tel Aviv 548-1111 (children/youth 985-1113), Haifa 857-2222/3, BeerSheva 648-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kiryat Sava 787-4555, Hadera 634-6789.

Wizzo hotlines for battered women: 02-6514111, 03-546-1133 (also in Arabic), Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (ment), Haifa 635-1677, Hadera 822-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Elit 633-1677, Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing various international shares.

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ISRAELI STOCKS IN US

Table listing various Israeli stocks in the US.

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NEW YORK

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AMSTERDAM

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BERLIN

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BRUSSELS

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FRANKFURT

Table listing various Frankfurt stocks.

Thompson heroics save Jerusalem

By ELI GRONER

Hapoel Jerusalem's 15-point advantage entering last night's second leg of State Cup quarter-final competition proved to be vital in weathering a strong Herzliya performance. The 81-76 road defeat was no setback, as the aggregate difference propelled the current Cup holders into the semi-final round.

An unexpected appearance by Billy Thompson was the difference. Thompson injured his back in a team practice on Sunday, and according to coach Gadi Kedar's gameplan, was not supposed to play. But with his team down by 10 at the half, Thompson came into the game and scored 10 points while hauling in seven rebounds, to stave off the Herzliyans.

Thompson's defensive presence was sorely missed in the first half, as Herzliya grabbed seven offensive rebounds. Todd Mitchell grabbed most of them, converting the boards into seven of his 20 (36 overall) first-half points. Mitchell's last putback came at the buzzer, giving Muli Katzurin's club a 47-37 advantage.

Thompson's inspirational lift sparked Jerusalem on a 10-4 run to open the second half that was capped by a Papi Turgeman steal and slam. At that point though, Herzliya's constant pressure on Adi Gordon took its toll. Gordon, who had an otherwise solid game with 28 points, stumbled through a series of turnovers and poor offensive decisions. Herzliya's Lior Arditzi (18 points) utilized the opportunity to convert a couple of three-pointers giving Herzliya its biggest lead of the game, 67-54, with less than 10 minutes remaining.

It was then that Kedar made his second vital decision of the half, inserting H. Waldman into the game. Waldman provided Jerusalem with a second solid ballhandler in the backcourt, helping to alleviate the pressure from Gordon.

After Thompson buried a jumper, Waldman made a terrific steal and pass to Doron Shefa, whose field goal cut the lead to 67-58.

The final Herzliya backbreaker came with just over three minutes to play, when Dan Bingenheimer (16 points, seven rebounds) made an incredible turnaround 20-footer at the shot-clock buzzer, cutting the lead to 74-68.

The draw for the semis will take place today, and the games will be held on March 20. According to the seedings, Jerusalem will play either Ramat Gan or Kiryat Motzkin, with Maccabi Tel Aviv to play the other. This sets up a potential meeting of the leagues two best teams in the final.

Graf may miss more tennis

FRANKFURT (AP) - World No. 1 women's tennis player Steffi Graf, who withdrew from the final in Tokyo with a knee injury this weekend, could also miss the WTA tournament scheduled in Hanover from February 17-23, her manager said yesterday.

Hans Engert said he was hoping that a medical examination at a clinic would show that Graf only had an infection... and that nothing more serious comes out of it.

W. Indies salvage pride in final Test

PERTH (Reuters) - West Indies thrashed Australia by 10 wickets in the fifth and final Test yesterday after the umpires warned both sides about their poor behavior.

Despite their heavy defeat inside three days at the WACA Ground, Australia won the series 3-2 to retain the Frank Worrell trophy.

Although the series was already decided, the sudden deterioration in relations between the two sides highlighted the intense, and occasionally bitter, rivalry that has been a feature of their meetings over the years.

The situation worsened as the match progressed, prompting umpires Darrell Hair and Peter Willey to speak to captains Mark Taylor and Courtney Walsh during play yesterday.

Late in West Indies' innings, Hair spoke to Taylor and Walsh, who was batting at the time, at some length in the middle before the two players shook hands and played on.

International Cricket Council match referee Raman Subba Row said the two captains were told to control the situation.

"The umpires said there was a fair bit of niggling from both sides and they told the captains, 'enough was enough'." Subba Row said in a statement released by the Australian Cricket Board.

"They (the umpires) called the two captains together and said, 'it stops now or there will be a report'. It did stop and I am happy with that."

After being summoned by the umpires, Walsh returned later in the day in his role as senior fast bowler to claim five wickets despite a hamstring injury as Australia was dismissed for 194 in its second innings.

Left with a target of 54 runs for victory, openers Sherwin Campbell and Robert Samuels easily achieved the task in 44 minutes and 10.2 overs to end the match just before the scheduled close.

West Indies, which began the day on 353 for seven in reply to Australia's first innings 243, was dismissed before lunch for 384, a



BEHAVE YOURSELVES - Cricket umpires talk to team captains Courtney Walsh and Mark Taylor about the poor sportsmanship between the sides.

lead of 141 runs.

The apparent tension between the sides came to the surface on Sunday when West Indies vice-captain and star batsman Brian Lara accused the Australians of persistent sledging after he com-

pleted his first century in the Test series.

Walsh, who batted with Lara as runner during his side's innings, bowled unchanged through the afternoon session off a short run and perfectly exploited the

extremely variable bounce to finish with five for 74.

Taylor, in contrast, endured a miserable match, failing in both innings as opener to prolong a run of low scores which left the experienced left-hander with an aver-

age of just 17 for the series. The victory maintained West Indies' perfect record of five Test wins in as many matches against Australia in Perth.

While running for his captain, Lara accidentally collided with Australia opener Matthew Hayden in an incident which immediately preceded the umpires' decision to intervene.

West Indies fast bowler Curtly Ambrose was named man of the match in recognition of his tally of seven wickets on his return from injury.

Australia, 1st innings 243
West Indies, 1st innings
Overnight 353 for seven

S. CAMPBELL c Healy b Patel	21
R. SAMUELS c Healy b McGrath	25
S. CHANDERPAUL c Healy b McGrath	3
B. LARA c Healy b Wayne	152
C. HOOPER c Healy b Patel	57
J. ADAMS c Healy b McGrath	18
R. SAMUELS c Healy b McGrath	0
C. BROWNE c Wayne b Patel	0
L. BISHOP c Taylor b Patel	13
C. AMBROSE not out	5
C. WALSH not out	5
Extras (lb, 10b, 20b, 1w)	44
TOTAL: 384 all out	
Fall of wickets: 30, 43, 251, 275, 331, 332, 369, 367, 364	
Bowling: Glenn McGrath 30-6-86-2 (4nb), Andrew Bards 18-7-9-0 (2nb), Paul Patel 26-6-75-5 (10nb, 1w), Shane Warne 19-6-65-2 (1nb), Greg Blewett 7-1-25-0 (1nb), Edman 2b, 2b, 2b, 2b, 2b	
Batting time: 476 minutes, Overs: 111.	

Australia, 2nd innings
West Indies, 2nd innings

M. TAYLOR c Browne b Ambrose	1
M. HAYDEN lbw b Hooper	47
G. BLEWETT b Ambrose	0
M. WALSH c Browne b Walsh	0
M. WALSH c Hooper b Walsh	0
M. BEVAN c Simmons b Walsh	15
L. HEALY c Chandrapat b Walsh	29
R. REIFEL c Adams b Walsh	5
S. WARNE c Simmons b Bishop	30
A. BICHEL c Samuels b Bishop	18
G. MCGRATH not out	0
Extras (lb, 2b, 22b, 2w)	36
TOTAL: 194 all out	
Fall of wickets: 7, 17, 43, 47, 84, 105, 110, 133, 153, 165	
Bowling: Curtly Ambrose 9-2-50-2 (15nb), Ian Bishop 12-3-44-2 (2nb, 2w), Courtney Walsh 20-4-74-5 (1nb), Phil Simmons 3-0-8-0 (2nb), Carl Hooper 3-0-1-1 (1nb)	
Batting time: 228 minutes, Overs: 47.3	

West Indies, 2nd innings

S. CAMPBELL not out	16
R. SAMUELS not out	35
Extras (lb, 3nb, 1w)	5
TOTAL: 57 for no wickets	
Bowling: Glenn McGrath 4-1-14-0 (1nb), Paul Patel 5-0-24-0 (2nb), Andrew Bichel 1-0-17-0	
Batting time: 44 minutes, Overs: 10.2	
Result: West Indies won by 10 wickets.	
Man-of-the-match: Curtly Ambrose (West Indies), First Test in Brisbane: Australia won by 123 runs, 2nd Test in Melbourne: W. Ind. won by 6 wickets, 4th Test in Adelaide: Australia won by an innings and 183 runs.	
Australia won the series 3-2.	

Carroll to coach Patriots

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) - Pete Carroll, the defensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers the last two years, is the new coach of the New England Patriots, succeeding Bill Parcells.

A Patriots spokesman confirmed the appointment yesterday, which had been expected even before Parcells and the Patriots officially severed ties Friday.

The announcement comes eight days after the Patriots lost 35-21 to the Green Bay Packers in the Super Bowl.

Carroll, the head coach for the New York Jets in 1994, reportedly interviewed for the St. Louis Rams coaching job but was passed over for Dick Vermeil.

Carroll was bypassed by the 49ers when they hired University of California coach Steve Mariucci a day after George Seifert resigned as coach after eight seasons.

Carroll, 45, was 6-10 in his one season with the Jets. He was fired by Jets owner Leon Hess after that season and then joined the 49ers staff.

Parcells and New England owner Robert Kraft split over a contract dispute in which NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue ruled in favor of the Patriots.

Now the Jets, who covet Parcells for their coaching vacancy, must decide if they are willing to give up their overall No. 1 pick to the Patriots in compensation for signing the coach who won two Super Bowls with the New York Giants.

Carroll has experience at both the college and pro level. His NFL stints include a stay with the Minnesota Vikings as defensive backfield coach from 1985-89 and Jets defensive coordinator from 1990 until he was made head coach for the 1994 season.

After taking the Patriots from last place in the AFC East to the Super Bowl in his four seasons, Parcells stepped down because he wasn't happy not having final say over personnel moves.

OT field goal gives AFC Pro Bowl victory

HONOLULU (Reuters) - Cary Blanchard kicked a 37-yard field goal 8:16 into overtime to lift the AFC to a 26-23 victory over the NFC in the Pro Bowl Sunday.

Blanchard had missed two of three field attempts, including a 41-yarder earlier in the overtime period, before kicking the game-winning field goal.

Pro Bowl MVP Mark Brunell hit tight end Ben Coates with a 43-yard pass to set up the winning kick. Brunell, who led Jacksonville to the AFC Championship game, averted a near sack by John Randle and lofted a long pass to Coates to the NFC 23-yard line.

Brunell connected with Tim Brown on an 80-yard touchdown pass with 44 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 23-23. Brown raced past cornerback Aeneas Williams down the right sideline and caught a long pass in stride from Brunell.

"Coming from a left-handed quarterback, that catch is no joke," said Brown. "I just concentrated real hard to stay with the ball." The NFC had a chance to win the game in regulation, but John Kasay missed a 39-yard field goal in the final seconds.

While the NFC has won the last 13 Super Bowls from the AFC, the Pro Bowl has been a more competitive event. The conferences had split the previous 12 meetings in Honolulu since 1985.

Gus Frerotte hit Kris Carter with a 53-yard touchdown pass and then connected with tight end Wesley Walls on the two-point conversion with 4:07 remaining in the fourth quarter to give the NFC a 23-16 lead.

Ashley Ambrose's 54-yard interception return for a touchdown 11 seconds into the fourth quarter had given the AFC a 16-15 lead. Ambrose cut in front of receiver Irving Fryar, intercepted a pass by Kerry Collins and raced down the right sideline untouched.

But Frerotte and Carter executed a perfect stop-and-go on cornerback Terry McDaniel down the right sideline for the winning touchdown. A pump fake by Frerotte froze McDaniel as Carter faked a cut and accelerated down the sideline.

Two-time NFL MVP Brett Favre, who led Green Bay to a victory in Super Bowl XXXI last Sunday, hit lineman Randall McDaniel with a five-yard touchdown pass on a tackle-eligible play and Kasay kicked a 20-yard field goal in the first quarter to give the NFC a 9-0 lead.

Blanchard kicked a 28-yard field goal with 27 seconds left in the second quarter for the AFC's only points in the first half.

Barry Sanders scored on a six-yard run with 8:51 left in the third quarter to increase the NFC's lead to 15-3.

A three-yard touchdown run by Curtis Martin pulled the AFC within 15-10 with 5:55 left in the third quarter.

The NFC leads the overall series, 15-12.

The million-dollar kick

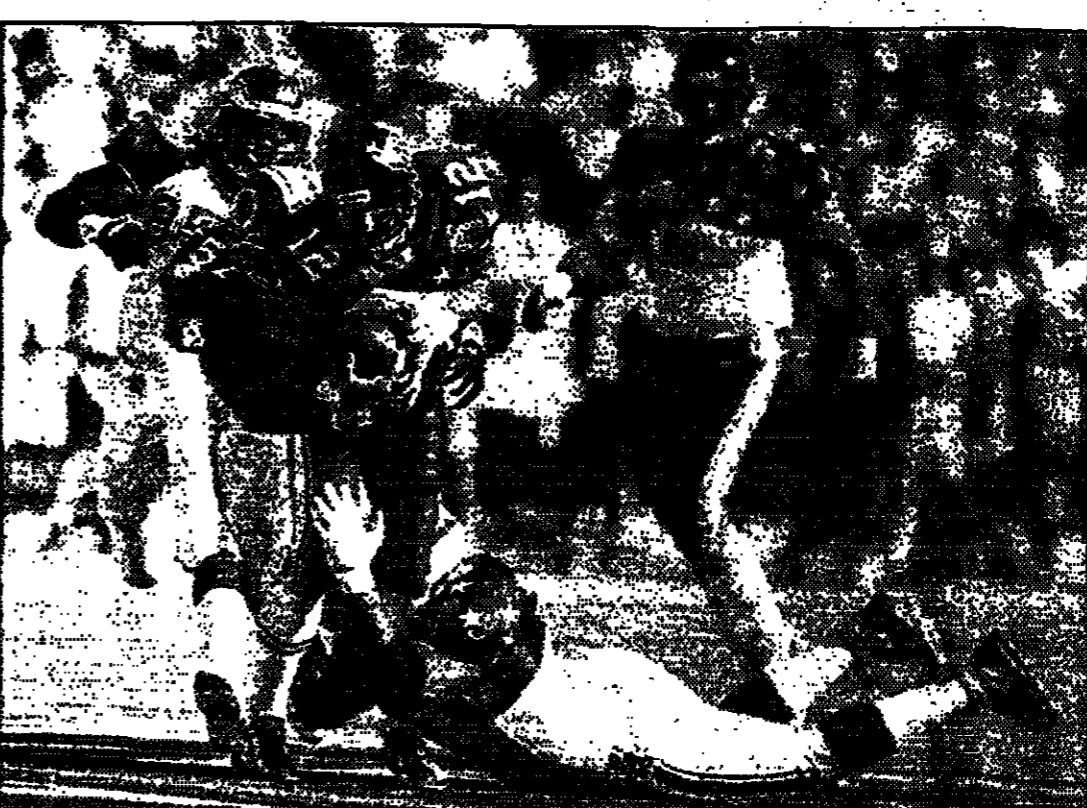
HONOLULU (AP) - Lance Alstott, an investment banker from New York, coolly boomed a 37-yard field goal through the uprights to win \$1 million in the "Heistey's \$1 million Pro Bowl Kick."

"I think the only way to go with something like this is to believe you can drill it," Alstott said, as compressed air pumped to him as he was when he was kicking Sunday.

Alstott had one chance, one kick for the \$1 million prize in the Pro Bowl.

A former high school soccer player, Alstott said he didn't expect a few strides to set himself up, and wanted to stay in the kick.

The ball was almost dead center from the line and with plenty of distance.



CLIPPED WINGS - AFC quarterback Vinny Testaverde of the Baltimore Ravens scrambles for yardage as he is taken down by NFC defenders.

THE LOCAL SCENE

Desert riders hold motor rally

By HEATHER CHAIT

After the rains, the dry, crisp weather on Saturday was perfect for the nearly 200 jeep drivers and motorcyclists who sallied forth into the adventure and the mud of the 100km Judean Hills Rally.

Amos Melnikov, in his Landrover Discovery, won the jeep category with Udi Kalifa (Landrover Defender) and Zvi Leit (Suzuki Samurai) behind him.

The two-wheelers were won by Raz Heiman and Eli Ohayon, both on KTM 620s, with Nadav Lugazi and Ronen Weiner second, also riding KTM 620s.

Twenty ATVs also tackled the tough, but stunning, terrain with Yair Shilo and Dan Amir taking first and second places.

For the bravehearted among you, the next rally in March will attack the Northern Negev area.

GOLF: This week's competition at the Caesarea Golf Club was an alliance, two best ball stableford. Winning with 93 points, 21 under par, were Harold Struzman, Eli Gitlin, Marcus Mandel and Solly Friedman. Second on 88 were Zev Abraham, Effe Been, Mike Firon and John Gainsford while capturing third place on 86 were Roz and Harry Brodie, Leslie Ben Amir and Richard Fogelson.

MAGNES RACE: Entrants in tomorrow's 46th Magnes Race will be combining both running and history as they compete in the country's oldest race.

The 2,300m Magnes Race, in memory of Yehuda L. Magnes, first president of the Hebrew University and the 5,000m Frankel Race, named for one of Israel's first runners and a *Jerusalem Post* writer, will be held at the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

In the races, organized by the Cosell Center of the Hebrew University, will be champion runners like Etty Kirma and 71-year-old Moshe Gur, alongside students, soldiers and schoolchildren.

The Frankel Race will begin at 14.45 and the Magnes Race will set off an hour later.

For more details, call (02) 658 4662.

SQUASH: If you're free on Saturday evening, go watch the finals of the Grand Prix Tournament at Ra'anana's squash club. The games begin at 5:45 pm and the grand finale is set for 8 p.m. Thursday's semifinals begin at 7:15 pm.

There's still time to enter the national championships to be held in the first week of March. The preliminary rounds will be in Herzliya and the finals in Ra'anana. For entry forms, call either squash club.

TENNIS: In yesterday's ATP Tour singles rankings, Eyal Ran is steady at last week's number 143 slot, his highest point ever. Taking second place is Oren Motevassel on 205 and Nir Weidenfeld is third on 241. Eyal Erlich and Riv Weilgreen are fourth and fifth at 248 and 268 respectively.

ATP rankings

Leading rankings issued by the ATP Tour yesterday:

- Pete Sampras (US) 5,774 points
- Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 3,562
- Thomas Muster (Austria) 3,492
- Michael Chang (US) 3,417
- Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 3,367
- Richard Krajcek (Netherlands) 2,371
- Marcelo Rios (Chile) 2,329
- Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 2,221
- Todd Martin (US) 1,840
- Thomas Enqvist (Sweden) 1,204
- Alberto Costa (Spain) 2,038
- Andre Agassi (US) 1,948
- Boris Becker (Germany) 1,931
- Todd Martin (US) 1,840
- Felix Mantilla (Spain) 1,888
- Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 1,561
- Tim Henman (Britain) 1,540
- Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden) 1,537
- Michael Stich (Germany) 1,516
- Alberto Berasategui (Spain) 1,477

USA Today/CNN top 25 college basketball teams

(Through Sunday's games)

Rank	Team	Record	Points	Prev.
1.	Kansas (30)	22-0	750	1
2.	Wake Forest	18-1	717	2
3.	Kentucky	20-2	892	3
4.	Minnesota	19-2	648	5
5.	Louisville	18-3	577	8
6.	Cincinnati	15-4	522	7
7.	Utah	15-3	519	4
8.	Clemson	17-4	512	6
9.	Michigan	17-4	476	14
10.	New Mexico	16-3	451	14
11.	Arizona	13-5	448	10
12.	Duke	17-5	448	11
13.	Iowa State	15-3	399	12
14.	Villanova	13-6	353	13
15.	Michigan	16-5	343	16
16.	Tulsa	17-4	286	15
17.	Xavier	15-3	227	19
18.	North Carolina	13-6	206	18
19.	Colorado	16-4	195	20
20.	South Carolina	15-5	124	NR
21.	Texas Tech	13-5	113	22
22.	Texas	17-6	106	23
23.	Indiana	17-6	97	17
24.	Tulane	16-5	84	NR
25.	Illinois	15-6	54	NR

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT.
Single Weekday - NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 12.87
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WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 409.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 40.95
FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 526.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 52.65
MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 994.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 99.45
New Rates are valid until February 28, 1997.

DEADLINES offices: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday.
Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315644.

DWELLINGS

General

WHERE TO STAY

THE JERUSALEM INN at the City Center - double rooms with private bathroom, T.V., telephones, 536-548 until 20/3/97, Tel. 02-625-2757, Fax: 02-625-1297.

DWELLINGS

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RENTALS

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GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.3 or 4, Basement, garden, immediate (no commission), DIVIROLI SIANI, Tel. 02-561-2424.

DWELLINGS

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DWELLINGS

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Celloist Michael Haran and pianist Shlomi Sheron-Lov play cello and piano music by Fauré this evening (6) at the Tel Aviv Museum as part of the Rush-Hour Concert Series.

The Braun-Roger-Siegl Competition for Keyboard Players continues today at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance. The first stage of the older pianists (ages 18-25) takes place today and tomorrow (10 a.m.-3) while the final stage is on Thursday (11 a.m.-3). All events are in room 221 of the Academy.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

On its toes, the Israel Ballet celebrates its 30th birthday with three premieres: *Carre de Visite* and *Encore* by IB artistic director/choreographer Berta Yampolsky, and *Gershwin Concerto* by Polish-born choreographer Krzysztof Pastor. At the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center tonight and through Thursday at 8:30 p.m.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The ever enthusiastic Jerusalem English Speaking Theater (JEST) has created its second children's musical. It's called *The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon* by Eleanor and Ray Harder, and is all about compromise, cooperation and collaboration dressed up delightfully in musical medieval derring do. C'mon! Of course there's a king and a princess. There's even a duchess. Leah Stoller directeth. At Gerard Behar today and tomorrow at 5 p.m. (English)

You will laugh until you cry, and in the next minute be touched to tears. The Camera Theater production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* directed by Micki Gurevitch has its finger firmly on the pulse of what "Israel" is about at the end of the '90s, and yet is set firmly within the context of Shakespeare's timeless and compassionate



The story of rogue futures trader Nick Leeson and his role in the collapse of England's oldest bank is told in '830 Million Pounds' on Channel 1 at 10 p.m.

humanity. What's more, he'd cheer this marvelous cast. Tonight on the main stage at 8:30 (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

830 Million Pounds is a BBC documentary about Nick Leeson, the young trader who in February 1995 singlehandedly destroyed Barings, England's oldest bank, after losing £830 million in uncontrolled stocks transactions.

The film, which includes interviews with Barings bankers and with Leeson and his wife, tries to find out whether the bank's collapse was a failed attempt at a scam or was simply the result of stupidity and irresponsibility. Channel 1, 10 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel
8:00 EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 The Book of Genesis
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Reading
9:30 Health
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:10 French
10:30 Mathematics
10:40 Literature
11:15 Science
11:30 Science and Technology
12:00 Geography
12:30 Movie Magic
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Babar the Elephant
15:30 Zombi

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motormail from Mars
15:50 Booty
16:00 It's Alive - program about animals
16:25 Northwood
16:45 Super Ben
16:55 Zap to Basel
18:50 A New Evening
17:34 Shakeup - live
18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Aotopo
18:35 Ramadan program
19:00 News in Arabic
HEBREW PROGRAMS
18:30 News flash
18:31 With Tom and Dalik - talk show
20:00 News
20:50 Loto results live
20:55 Mina Host Meni Pe'oni
22:00 830 Million Pounds (1996) - BBC documentary about Nick Leeson, the young trader who in February 1995 singlehandedly destroyed Barings, England's oldest bank. (56 mins.)
23:00 Dream On
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 The Legend of Prince Valiant
7:00 Coffee with Telad - morning magazine
8:00 Ruby
10:00 Picket Fences
11:00 Love, Honor & Obedience
11:30 Nurses
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00:05 The X-Files
00:18 Night Encounters with Kobi Gidon
1:05 On the Edge of

the Shelf

JORDAN TV

(unconfirmed)

CHANNEL 1

13:00 Program for Ramadan
13:30 Cartoons
14:30 Dog House
15:00 Movie
16:50 Program for Ramadan
17:30 You Bet Your Life
18:00 French programs
18:30 News headlines
19:30 Oriental Rugs
20:00 Encounter
21:10 Lost Civilization
22:00 News in English
22:25 Iam in a Changing World
23:00 Snowy River
23:50 Miniseries
1:15 Ramadan talks

MIDDLE EAST TV

(unconfirmed)

7:00 TV Shop

14:30 700 Club
15:00 Richard Scarry
15:25 Feature film
16:55 Family Challenge
17:40 Family Matters
18:05 Saved by the Bell
18:30 Larry King
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 American Football
23:00 CNN
23:30 The 700 Club
00:00 Quantum Shopping

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 The Ryan White Story (1991) - true story of a boy with leukemia who contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion (93 mins.)
13:10 Blondie Brings Up Baby (1939) - this time Baby Dumping disappears on the way to school and stirs up panic. With Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake (72 mins.)
14:25 Belle of Santa Angelo (1947) (rpt)
15:45 Singa (1993) (rpt)
17:15 Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus (1949) (rpt)
18:50 Touch of Truth (1994) - an autistic child is sent to a special institution where he learns to use computers. When he tells about abuse by staff, his mother decides to go to the courts. With Melissa Gilbert (98 mins.)
20:25 Baby Snatcher (1992) - a desperate woman loses her baby and in order to find him kidnaps a baby. With Veronica Hamel (88 mins.)
22:00 Color of Night (1991) - thriller starring Bruce Willis and Jane March
00:05 A Taste for Killing (1992) (rpt)
1:30 Blackmail (1991)
3:05 Street of No Return (1989) (rpt)

ITV 3 (33)

18:00 Cartoons
18:30 Yasin and Zayid
19:00 From Day to Day
19:00 Amores
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Video Clips
20:45 Rumpole of the Bailey
21:40 Showcase
22:15 Cinema 3
23:15 Call Red, the adventures of a rescue team

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 Mathematics for Bagrut
17:00 Mathematics in Daily Life
17:30 Fresh Ticker
18:30 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 The Book of Genesis
19:30 Mirror
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Dites Moi Tout - new series for learning French
21:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation
21:45 Pop Songs
22:00 Movie Magic
22:30 The Rite of Spring
a documentary about Stravinsky's life and work, with shots from six different versions of The Rite of Spring.
23:00 Junior News - news magazine for youth
23:30 Mosaic in the Jewish Tradition

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 The Legend of Prince Valiant
7:00 Coffee with Telad - morning magazine
8:00 Ruby
10:00 Picket Fences
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PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 5 rows (19:30-23:00) showing TV programs for different channels.

19:30 News flash with Tom and Dalik News

20:00 Loto results live

21:00 830 Million Pounds

22:00 830 Million Pounds

23:00 Dream On

17:00 Biathlon: World Championship, Slovakia

19:00 Darts: German Open

20:00 Bobbed Racing: World Championship, St. Moritz

21:00 Extreme Sports

22:00 Heavyweight Boxing, France

00:00 English Soccer: 1990 FA Cup Final - Manchester United vs. Crystal Palace

2:00 Olympic Magazine

6:00 Tennis: Shanghai Open

7:00 Trans World Sports

8:00 Spanish League Soccer

8:30 Showjumping

9:30 Rugby: Five Nations

10:00 Chess: Championship, England vs. Scotland

11:00 Wales vs. Ireland (rpt)

12:30 ITU Triathlon World Cup

13:30 Aerobics

14:30 Tennis: Shanghai Open - semi-finals

15:30 Trans World Sport

16:30 Iron Man Triathlon

17:00 Watersports World

18:00 Sailing: King Cup

19:00 The Bold and the Beautiful

20:00 Santa Barbara

21:00 Baywatch

22:00 Dynasty

23:00 Quincy

00:00 Oprah Winfrey

1:00 Barnaby Rudge

2:00 Home and Away

2:30 The Sullivans

NEWS

in brief

Bill calls for tougher sentences for sex crimes

The Justice Ministry will soon submit a bill requiring minimum sentences for serious sexual crimes, the ministry said yesterday. The minimum will be one-fourth of the maximum sentence. However, the law will not take effect for at least a year, to give a public commission on this subject time to finish its work. The commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg, is examining questions such as how to reconcile minimum sentencing with the principle of judicial discretion. One proposed solution is that the bill might allow judges to give less than the minimum sentences in special circumstances.

Evelyn Gordon

Israel, Greece expand cultural relations

Israel and Greece have agreed to broaden cultural ties significantly, especially in the realm of arts and exhibitions. The agreements came about during Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's visit to Greece this week. Events planned include an archaeological exhibition from the Athens museum to be displayed here next year, and performances by Israeli artists in Salonika. The Tel Aviv Museum will also host Greek artists and hold reciprocal exhibitions in Greece.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Hospital to facilitate surrogacy proceedings

Rambam Hospital has opened a non-profit center for helping couples who want babies under a surrogacy agreement. The new service, which follows last year's passage of a law regulating surrogacy, includes finding women willing and eligible to bear the contracting couples' child, preparing a contract, in-vitro fertilization and social and psychological support.

The couple will not be charged a middleman's fee, but will only have to pay the actual cost of treatment. Recently, a for-profit center was established elsewhere to supply services to such couples.

Judy Siegel

Blood donations to MDA increase

Magen David Adom collected 241,553 units of blood last year - 17,240 units more than in 1995, or a 7 percent increase. MDA said that in order to meet the country's blood needs, 5% of the population must donate. Blood supply needs continue to grow because of the population increase, advanced medical technology and aging. To keep up, MDA needs to collect some 1,000 units every weekday. Hospital demands for blood components (such as red cells, plasma and gamma globulin) also are increasing due to more complicated treatments such as transplants of bone-marrow and various organs.

Judy Siegel

Members named for A-G commission

Four leading jurists have agreed to join the Shamgar Commission on the status of the attorney-general, the Justice Ministry said yesterday. They are former justice ministers David Liba'i and Moshe Nissim, former attorney-general Haim Zadok and Hebrew University Law Professor Ruth Gabizon. The commission, which will be headed by former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, will begin its work soon, the ministry said.

Evelyn Gordon

Mordechai: No zone pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (Likud) rejected a call yesterday by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way) for Israel to unilaterally withdraw from the security zone and be replaced by an international force.

Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mordechai said a unilateral withdrawal would result in greater casualties among IDF soldiers, more attacks on the North and the South Lebanese Army, and would turn the local Lebanese population against Israel.

Mordechai said such suggestions "are populist," harm IDF

morale, hurt the bereaved families of soldiers "and sow false illusions that there is a magic solution to the problems of south Lebanon."

He also completely ruled out the suggestion by Meretz leader Yossi Sarid to withdraw in place of an Arab international force with Egyptian, Jordanian and Moroccan soldiers.

Kahalani told parliamentary reporters that his idea raised army morale "by letting the soldier there know that someone in Jerusalem cares."

He said by taking the initiative, Israel would be able to prevent Syrian dictates.

"We must start thinking differently; not let the Syrians deter-

mine our future and look at the long term. If we continue like this, the situation will still be the same in the next decade. We have an agreement with the Lebanese government and Hizbullah that they will not fire Katyushas at the northern Galilee," he said.

"We need to slowly withdraw and to change our concept there. If a soldier is killed then we should retaliate," Kahalani said. "But I'm not prepared for a situation in which a soldier is killed and buried and the country just continues to stare."

Mordechai rejected Kahalani's idea. "I don't see any possibility of a unilateral withdrawal," he told reporters. "It's not on the agenda. It would be a mistake.

Any step in that direction would bring the terror and Hizbullah to the border fence and disrupt and harm the lives of Israeli citizens."

Mordechai said UNIFIL forces already in Lebanon "are unable and don't prevent Katyusha attacks."

He said the complexity of the Lebanese situation stemmed from several factors including the "lack of sufficient, precise intelligence on Hizbullah; and the type of terrain." He also there is a problem because the number of IDF soldiers in Lebanon could never be sufficient.

"There are two possible solutions: force or the diplomatic solution," said Mordechai. "We can't swap an incomplete solution for a worse solution."



Dairy farmers protest

Dairy farmers from the Israel Cattle Breeders' Association hold a protest with their animals against the free import of ice cream and raw milk products outside the Industry and Trade Ministry yesterday. The farmers, holding placards reading, "No agriculture, no independence," and "No agriculture, no Zionism," demonstrated as the directors-general of the Industry and Trade and Agriculture ministries met inside. The farmers association said that dairy imports would cause a NIS 140 million loss to the local industry in 1997.

WEATHER

Haifa 5-13	Tiberias 5-12	Golan 4-2
Afula 5-11	Samarra 3-7	Tel Aviv 8-14
Jerusalem 2-7	Beer Sheva 5-15	Dead Sea 8-17
Elitz 6-18		

Forecast: Rainy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WEATHER
Amsterdam	50	55	10	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	25	10	clear
Chicago	44	50	10	cloudy
Geneva	48	55	10	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	25	10	rain
London	13	18	10	cloudy
Los Angeles	11	18	10	clear
Moscow	21	28	10	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the ace of hearts, the seven of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Tichon asked to block 'racist' bill

MK Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) has asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to prevent Michael Kleiner (Gesher-Likud) from submitting his bill that says only a Jew can be prime minister. A-Sanaa based his request on a clause added to the Knesset House Rules when Meir Kahane was an MK which allows the Speaker to refuse someone the right to submit a bill which is racist. Tichon said Kleiner has not yet submitted his bill but the Speaker would examine it when he did.

MKs attack Beilin-Eitan plan

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Yossi Beilin, running for the Labor Party leadership, yesterday came under heavy attack by his party colleagues at a Labor faction meeting and later by MKs from both coalition and opposition parties in the plenum, when he presented the outline of his agreement with Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said the agreement is a personal initiative and does not commit the government. Not all the clauses are acceptable to the government, she said. But she praised the attempt to reach a national consensus.

The government, she said, aims at presenting a plan for the permanent settlement behind which there will be national consensus. The plan would preserve defense needs, settlements, control over water sources, and a unified Jerusalem. The government is against the creation of Palestinian state, Livnat said.

Most of the Labor MKs who spoke at the faction meeting criticized the Beilin-Eitan agreement. Ehud Barak, who is also competing for the party leadership, described it as "a murky

document [which] serves the political interests of [Prime Minister] Benjamin Netanyahu."

He also related to the understanding reached between Beilin and the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas [Abu Mazen]. "I hope the Abu Mazen document didn't prevent us from remaining in power and I hope the Beilin-Eitan document doesn't stop us from returning to power," Barak said.

Beilin told the faction: "This is the most important document signed between MKs from two sides of Israeli politics in decades. The document proves, in addition to the Beilin-Abu Mazen document, that there is someone to talk to and what to talk about regarding the permanent arrangements."

Eitan sent out a call from the Knesset podium to Judea, Samaria, and Gaza residents to sign the document. He said the agreement offered a commitment to the settlers by annexing most settlements; barring the right of return; preserving Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel; and determining that the Jordan River will be the security border.

Eitan warned extremists among the settlers that

if they split the nation they would be the first to pay the price. "Only a unified and united people supporting its government will enable [it] to stand on vital interests. Being split will end in giving up in the face of external pressures."

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told the faction he was "shocked" by the document because Beilin "had only gone in one direction, in the direction of the Likud. According to what is written in the document, 52 percent of the West Bank will be annexed because of settlements."

He attacked Beilin for seeking popularity with the right because of his candidacy for the party leadership and premiership.

Ephraim Sneh, another party leadership hopeful, said the agreement tended toward "massive annexation" of settlements. "There is a critical mass without which the Palestinian entity cannot be realized. We can't take part in a half-separation, half-annexation," he said.

Beilin was supported by Haim Ramon and Shlomo Ben-Ami, another candidate for the party's top spot, both of whom who signed the Beilin-Eitan document. Yona Yahav and Rafi Etul both said they would sign it soon.

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Missing as Navy plane disappears sea during training with Israel Navy

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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19500 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1997 • SHVAT 28, 5757 • 27 RAMADAN 1417 NIS 4.50 (ET) NIS 3.80

73 killed in IAF helicopter collision

Ivry to head external disaster probe

By HERB KEINON and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
Seventy-three soldiers and airmen were killed yesterday when two Yasur 2000 helicopters transporting forces to the security zone collided over Moshav She'ar Yashuv in the Galilee Panhandle, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said last night.

It was the worst air disaster in IAF history, and officials said there were no survivors.
As of 2 a.m., only 25 of the bodies had been identified.
The crash occurred at around 7 p.m. in foggy weather conditions. The transport came after a day of heavy fighting in Lebanon.
At a news conference at 1:30 a.m., Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai announced the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to determine the cause of the disaster. The commission will be headed by former Defense Ministry director-general and air force commander David Ivry.

Knesset to hold special session, Page 2

The two aircraft, carrying eight airmen and 65 soldiers, including 13 officers, were heading troops from Mahanayim to Lebanon as part of a troop rotation, officials said. In recent months, helicopters have been used increasingly as a way to minimize the use of roads in south Lebanon and the risk of roadside bombs.
One of the helicopters crashed into a guest house at the entrance to She'ar Yashuv, while the other apparently tried to make an emergency landing before crashing a few kilometers away in the cemetery of Kibbutz Dafna. No one at Kibbutz Dafna or She'ar Yashuv was reported injured.
Eyewitnesses said explosions were heard for several hours after the crash, as the massive firepower and ammunition carried by the helicopters continued to explode in the conflagration.

"I saw the two helicopters crash in the air," She'ar Yashuv resident Albert Alfasi told Channel 1. "The engine of one of them fell 200 meters from my home. We all dove to the ground."

Another eyewitness, Smadar Edling from the Mevo'ot Hermon Guest House, said, "I was in the parking lot at 7 p.m., and heard helicopter activity. I looked into the valley and heard a loud explosion. I thought we were being hit by

'I heard shouts from soldiers', Page 2

Katyushas. There was another loud explosion, and I saw a helicopter continue to fly very low.

"I thought he was sending up flares, and then disappeared. I saw a huge explosion, and another smaller one, and the helicopter continued to fly, and then fell."

Witnesses include Magen David Adom ambulances, fire crews from Kiryat Shmona, and IDF rescue teams reached the disaster area and began to douse the flames and to remove the bodies. Roads in the area were closed and residents of homes near the crash sites were evacuated.

Boaz Norkin, head of the MDA Northern Region, said 22 vehicles and tens of volunteers and professionals arrived at the scene.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called for unity at a time of tragedy and canceled his trip to Jordan scheduled for today.

"This is an unimaginably grave tragedy. The hearts of the nation are with the victims. The whole country weeps today over the loss of these young fighters," Netanyahu said in a statement issued by his office.

He spoke by phone with King Hussein, who sent his condolences. Netanyahu also received a condolence phone call from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The meeting between the two scheduled for tomorrow at Erez also was postponed, Israel Radio said. After visiting the crash site together with senior IDF officers,



Rescue workers surround the body of a soldier killed in last night's helicopter crash.

Mordechai said: "The IDF soldiers who died were the best of the nation's young men who were on their way to an IDF position in Lebanon. They were carrying out the mission of defending the settlements of the North. All the citizens of Israel are in mourning and shock and are feeling the pain and sorrow."
"It's a terrible tragedy. It's the worst tragedy the air force has known in its 50-year history," said President Ezer Weizman.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called Netanyahu last night to express condolences on behalf of the administration, and offered to help in any way possible.
The White House released a statement last night saying that President Clinton sent a message to Netanyahu extending, on behalf of all Americans, "sincere condolences to the families of the victims and the people and Government of Israel. Our nation's thoughts and prayers

are with the Israeli people as they grieve the loss of their dedicated service personnel."
Other members of the commission of inquiry are former paratroop head Maj.-Gen. (res.) Amos Yaron; Maj.-Gen. (res.) Ben-Zion Farhi, former president of military court of appeals; Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar, a former helicopter pilot; and retired judge Haim Shapira.
Eyewitness Yigal Chen, from She'ar Yashuv, told Israel Radio,

"I was in my home with my two sons and heard a massive explosion. There was a ball of fire and the entire house was illuminated. We went outside away and we heard the sound of a helicopter. We looked up and saw a helicopter, and it appeared the pilot was looking for a place to land. I have had more than a few experiences in the army, but never saw anything like this."

Chen said the pilot of the second helicopter turned on his lights after the crash and appeared to be looking for a place to land. The helicopter crashed into an empty guest home at the entrance to the moshav.
The previous worst air disaster in IAF history was on May 10, 1977, when a Sikorsky CH-53 crashed near Jericho. Fifty-four soldiers were killed in that crash.
Hillel Kuntler in Washington contributed to this report.

4 missing as US Navy plane disappears at sea during training with Israel Navy

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
A US Navy plane disappeared at sea during a training exercise involving an Israeli submarine yesterday and its four-man crew was feared dead, security sources said.
The plane was a sub-hunting F-3 known as a Viking, and was thought to have crashed somewhere in the eastern Mediterranean, the sources said. US Navy search and rescue teams swept the waters off the coast for the missing plane, but, at press time, no sign of the F-3 had been found.
A US government official has confirmed that the incident occurred.
The apparent crash took place during joint maneuvers with the Israeli Navy and followed a visit to the South Fleet's USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carriers by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Past helicopter disasters

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
During the past 26 years, 103 people have been killed in 11 IAF helicopter accidents.
• September 17, 1996 - Three killed when a Navy Dolphin helicopter crashed off Rosh Hanikra. The cause of the crash was never determined. One of the three bodies still has not been found.
• March 31, 1996 - Seven killed when a Yasur 2000 transport helicopter crashed in the Judean Desert while practicing clandestine troop delivery. The helicopter completely burned and IAF investigators have never determined if it was a technical malfunction or human error. Two survived the crash.
• December 1994 - A CH-53 crashed into Palmachim beach while trying to lift a heavy cargo. Three crewmen died.
• January 12, 1994 - OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Nehemia Tamari and three other officers died when their helicopter crashed in fog near the command landing pad in northern Jerusalem.
• July 1, 1992 - St.-Sgt. Maj. Gil Rosenthal is killed when a helicopter crashed into the sea off Rosh Hanikra during a rescue drill.
• April 25, 1990 - Seven airmen are killed when two Sikorsky CH-53 helicopters collided near Otr during a training exercise.
• December 30, 1988 - A pilot died when his Yasur 2000 helicopter crashed during a border-marking mission north of Eilat.
• September 9, 1984 - Five IDF soldiers died in a Bell 212 helicopter crash near Beit She'an.
• May 10, 1977 - A Sikorsky CH-53 slammed into a hill during a nighttime training exercise near Jericho, killing all 54 paratroopers and air force personnel on board.
• April 21, 1974 - Two helicopters returning from missions on the Syrian border collided at Mahanayim Airport, killing eight crew members and soldiers.
• July 8, 1971 - A Yasur crashed into the ocean near Yamit. Ten passengers and crew members were killed.
*This report contributed to this report.

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'I heard shouts from soldiers'

By DAVID RUDGE

Hananiya Malka was sitting with his wife, Simmi, in their restaurant in Moshav She'ar Yashuv in the Galilee Panhandle when they heard a strange noise overhead followed by a loud explosion.

"I thought at first it might be a Katyusha or something like that. Then I saw the flames from a house which is used as a guest house for visitors," said Malka.

He ran to the scene - just 30 meters from his restaurant - believing that gas bottles had perhaps exploded in the

building, which was empty at the time.

"I started to turn off the gas and electricity and then I saw the wings and rotors of a helicopter sticking out of the building in the midst of the flames," he said.

Malka was the first to reach the scene. He ran out with a hose thinking he would be able to douse the flames. But the flames continued to pour from the stricken craft and the building.

"There were explosions, apparently from munitions carried by the soldiers on board the helicopter," he said.

"I heard shouts, to my great sorrow, from soldiers who were trapped inside the helicopter, shouting for help, but

there was nothing that could be done.

"The flames were too fierce that with my hose I couldn't do anything, nothing," said Malka.

One of the aircraft had crashed directly into the empty building. The other helicopter had fallen in open land across the road from the moshav in fields belonging to Kibbutz Dafna.

Residents of the moshav raced to the scene, but like Malka were unable to do anything except raise the alarm. Within minutes, Magen David Adom ambulances, fire crews from Kiryat Shmona and IDF rescue teams reached the disaster area and began to douse the flames

and begin the gruesome task of removing the bodies.

Boaz Norikin, head of the MDA Northern Region, said 22 vehicles and tens of volunteers and professionals arrived at the scene.

"The scene was awful, and the worst part of it all was that we couldn't do anything despite arriving within seconds of the accident from all around the area," said Norikin.

MDA had all available personnel working at the scene. The whole area was closed by the military.

An officer of the Northern Region fire department said he arrived within seven

minutes, but the army only permitted them to approach the fire when all were fully equipped with combat vests and helmets.

Wreckage from the craft was spread over hundreds of meters. The rescue teams used flares to light up the region in the hope of finding survivors who might have been thrown out of the craft.

Residents of the moshav said the crash had occurred not far from children's homes for fear the flames would spread. Others took shelter. The moshav residents could only stand and watch until the flames had been brought sufficiently under control so they could help in the

rescue evacuation.

"I never thought for a minute that a helicopter had crashed into the boarding house until I saw the wing sticking out," said Malka.

"My wife was in a state of shock and couldn't stop crying because of the soldiers. If this had happened in the summer, the place would have been full with visitors and it would have been an even worse disaster.

"But this is bad enough. It's terrible. When I saw the bodies of the young soldiers being brought out and laid out on the ground, I felt anger, frustration and deep, deep heartache," said Malka.

Knesset to hold special session

By SARAH HONIG

The Knesset will hold a special session of mourning at 11 a.m. with opening remarks by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon along with remarks by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. President Ezer Weizman is expected to attend. The Knesset will close early to enable MKs to attend the funerals.

Labor leader Shimon Peres stated yesterday that "though this is not the time for blame, the time has come to put an end to this involvement in Lebanon... We will end up making the same concessions in the end anyway but only after more blood has been spilt." Peres was speaking to TV's Channel 1 from Switzerland. His was the only discordant political voice last night.

Peres stressed that he does not support "unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, but we must be brave and not delude ourselves or we will end up paying for it in blood. There is a price for peace with Lebanon and with Syria and we must utter this truth and not toy with illusions.

Others in Peres's party refrained

from partisan politics. Peres's chief rival in Labor, MK Ehud Barak, issued a statement saying: "The heart breaks. At this bitter hour there is no right wing or left wing, no opposition or coalition. At this bitter hour we are all IDF, all State of Israel... Tears choke us but we will continue in the path of peace and security. We have no other option. A tide of tears sweeps Israel tonight."

The Labor Party issued a statement expressing shock. "Like the rest of the nation we feel the terrible pain of the disaster at She'ar Yashuv." The Likud also issued a statement saying that "The pain, the grief and the tears are those of all of us, of the entire nation."

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer instructed the school system to devote time to the disaster today. The pupils and teachers will commemorate the fallen, express sympathy for the families and discuss the disaster. "The school system is no island and cannot remain untouched by the national mourning. Pupils who witnessed the crash will get special counselling."

Liat Collins contributed to this report



The IAF's workhorse - the Yasur 2000 transport helicopter.

(IDF Spokesman)

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Yasur: IAF workhorse

The US-made Sikorsky CH-53, known in Hebrew as the Yasur, is the workhorse of the IDF. The 1960s vintage aircraft has been upgraded by the IAF and is expected to take the IDF into the next decade. The IAF had 42 of them, according to the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies Middle East Military Balance.

The heavy transport helicopter is made to carry up to 50 passengers, but due to the 1977 tragic crash of

the CH-53 in which 54 paratroopers and crewmen were killed, the IDF restricted its maximum seating to 35 soldiers plus a three-man crew.

The Yasur also is capable of transporting light vehicles.

Eliezer Cohen, a former CH-53 squadron commander, said there is no substitute for the CH-53. He said the IAF had chosen the CH-

53 because of its survivability and maneuverability.

"There are many helicopters like this in the IDF and they are doing great work," Cohen said. "I wouldn't want to guess how many flights they have done until now."

Another squadron commander, Ofer Ben-Peretz, said the upgraded Yasur 2000 is equipped with sophisticated avionics which

allow it to operate at night in most weather conditions.

"When there is a need to transport a large number of troops quickly this is the best tool we have," he said.

The Yasur is not equipped with a "black box," but its internal cockpit conversations are recorded and investigators are likely to use this to determine

the reasons for the crash. The cause of the previous crash of a Yasur last April was never determined.



One pilot, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said helicopters are more likely to crash than fixed-winged aircraft since they fly at low altitudes and are more complicated machines. He said the final say on whether an aircraft would fly lay ultimately with the pilot, who could overrule a superior officer if he felt the weather was too hazardous.

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The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, February 5, 1997, at 2 p.m., at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem. Shiva will be observed at 8 Tura, Yemin Moshe, Jerusalem.

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We shall sorely miss him. Our deepest condolences to the Warshawsky and Goldfarb families.

Helaine Gerber, President

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HAROLD (Chanan) WARSHAWSKY ז"ל

our condolences to his wife Adele, his children and family.

She'ar Yashuv, a frontier settlement

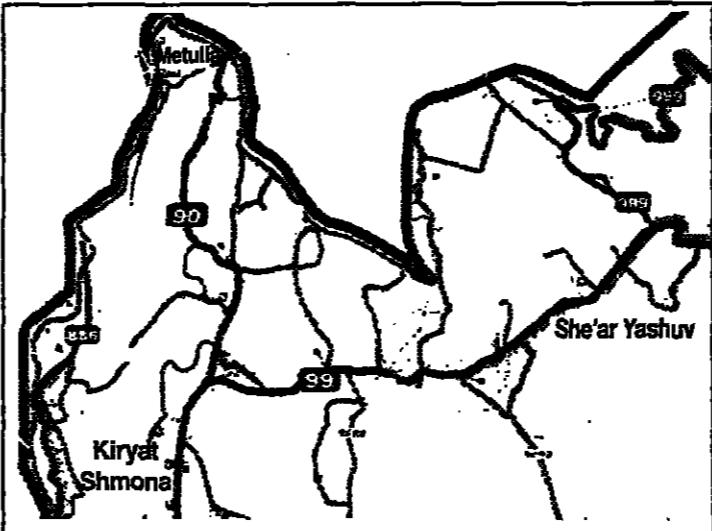
She'ar Yashuv, a moshav in the Hula Valley, is a frontier settlement that lies seven km. east of Kiryat Shmona, in the Galilee panhandle.

Founded in 1940, the moshav was attacked by Syrians and then abandoned.

It was rehabilitated in 1949 by Hungarian and Romanian immigrants. Up until the Six Day War, the moshav was harassed by Syrian forces from positions to its east.

She'ar Yashuv, or "A Remnant Shall Return," is affiliated with Oved Hazoni. The moshav has some 250 inhabitants.

Jerusalem Post Staff



59 soldiers killed in action last year, 26 in accidents

By LIAT COLLINS

Only hours before dozens of soldiers were killed when two helicopters on routine trips transporting soldiers from Lebanon to Israel collided, last year's military fatality statistics were released. Fifty-nine soldiers were killed in action and 26 died in military accidents last year according to the annual report submitted by the IDF to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. There were 30 suicides by soldiers, compared to 43 the previ-

ous year. Although the number of fatal accidents dropped from 17 to 14 in 1996, the number of fatalities rose from 20 to 26. These figures do not include road accidents by soldiers on leave.

The six training accidents include two helicopter crashes in which a total of 10 soldiers were killed, one death by electrocution, and two deaths during a diving exercise. One soldier died from heat stroke and one was run over and killed during a training accident. A soldier was killed by "friendly fire." In non-training related accidents, nine soldiers were killed in six road crashes and one died in a weapons accident.

In a briefing with reporters, Colonel Assaf Sela, head of the IDF's safety division, said there had been a drop in the number of accidents resulting in light injuries, whereas there had been a slight increase in accidents

resulting in moderate to serious injuries.

There was an increase in accidents during operations, the number of training accidents remained stable, and there had been a drop in "routine" accidents. The drop in road accidents in the army continued and Sela described the Course 1000 Project giving extra road training to non-professional drivers. Some 800 soldiers did the course last year.

There was an increase in soldiers suffering from gastro-intestinal problems, mostly in field conditions.

Twenty seven soldiers were killed in road accidents while on leave and hundreds were injured.

Sela stressed that the IDF places the responsibility for safety on commanders and officers and has a policy encouraging reports of near accidents to prevent possible future incidents.

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Netanyahu mourns the nation's best soldier

Weizman appeals public to not include...

Attacks on IDF cross security

By DAVID RUDGE

Netanyahu mourns the nation's 'best sons'

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The country is grieving over the tragic loss of its fallen "best sons," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mournfully declared last night.

Due to the tragedy, Netanyahu has cancelled his meeting with Jordan's King Hussein in Jordan today, and reportedly is cancelling his summit meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez Junction tomorrow.

Netanyahu declared last night, "We lost several dozens of our best sons, courageous and good soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces."

"The defense minister and the chief of staff are investigating the circumstances of the tragedy, including the scope of this disaster."

"It is clear to us that for many families of Israel their lives are

about to change beyond recognition, which will not revert back to what was before they received the bitter news. All of Israel unites tonight to bolster these families. They are all our families. They are all our sons. At this time, we bolster the IDF, which protects the nation's borders day and night.

"I pray there are no more tragedies," Netanyahu concluded.

As a sign of unity, Netanyahu called upon all 120 Knesset members to fan out across the country and attend the funerals of the fallen.

The premier informed King Hussein during a phone conversation last night that he would have to cancel his trip to Amman today due to the tragedy.

Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan and Arafat both phoned to offer condolences.

Knesset throws out Kleiner bill

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset presidium yesterday decided that MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher-Likud) cannot submit his bill under which only a Jew is eligible to run for prime minister.

Two deputy speakers - David Tal (Shas) and Haim Dayan (Tsomet) - were in favor of allowing the bill to be presented. However, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and four other deputies - Shevah Weiss (Labor), Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Meir Sheerit (Likud) and Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur (National Religious Party) - voted against it. Their decision was made on the basis of a clause in the Knesset House Rules, included during Meir Kahane's period as an MK, which bars the submission of bills considered racist.

"We had no choice but to refuse it," Tichon said.

Kleiner decried the decision as "the death of Zionism" and promised to submit a new bill demanding that candidates for the premiership pass the same security checks that senior civil servants take.

Kleiner accused the presidium of "hypocrisy."

"Not one of them would want an Arab prime minister or question the decision which does not allow Arab MKs to sit on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee," he said.

Kleiner denied the bill was "any more racist than the Declaration of Independence or the Law of Return."

"This is not racist - just like the US does not consider it racist to prevent someone not born there to be president. MKs represent the voters and can come from all sectors, but the premier represents the state, which is a Jewish State," he said.

"This bill is not in the same category as those despicable and repulsive bills by Kahane and others that were rightly rejected for racism."

MK Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) praised the decision to ban the bill as "a victory for democracy and for Arab citizens aspiring to full equality in the State. It's a complete failure for racism and racists."



A glum-looking Michael Kleiner MK (left) hears from Knesset Chairman Dan Tichon that his bill had been rejected by the house presidium. (Isaac Harari)

Weizman appeals to public to not jump to conclusions about crash

By BATSHEVA TSUR

"This is the worst disaster in the history of Israel's air force and [in its] aviation history," President Ezer Weizman said after last night's fatal helicopter accident. "To have helicopters flying in the night and under those conditions is not a simple matter."

"I appeal to the public over the pages of The Jerusalem Post to believe me that we have one of the finest fighting forces in the world; we have one of the finest defense forces - army, navy and air force - working day and night looking after the defense of our little country."

"I appeal to the country - with all the grief, sorrow and pain and questions that the public has - please don't jump to conclusions."

The president said he had full faith that the truth would come to light about the cause of the disaster.

"I know that one of the best committees of inquiry has been convened. The easiest thing now is to criticize. All of us now have

sad hearts. My heart goes out to the families who have lost their dear ones and I'll visit each and every family in the very near future."

Weizman called on the public to show restraint and react in a mature fashion, saying, "I appeal to the public: let's make it a national, mature and responsible time of anguish and grief."

Weizman, who was in Ness Ziona when informed of the disaster, drove straight to the Defense Ministry, where he conferred with Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj. Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu. He described the atmosphere there as one of "deep grief."

"I don't want to make any kind of speculations" about what could have caused the accident, Weizman said in an interview with ITV.

"Unfortunately, many of the disasters have been with helicopters," he said in reply to a question. "But this is not the fault of the air force, which does everything possible to prevent this. We must wait for the findings of the committee of inquiry."

Attacks on IDF, SLA across security zone

By DAVID HUDGE

Heavy fighting erupted in south Lebanon yesterday, as Hizbullah gunmen launched a long-range attack on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions across the security zone.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in the exchanges which began before 7 a.m. and continued sporadically throughout the day, despite bitter cold, snow and rain in the region.

Hizbullah gunmen fired dozens of mortars and anti-tank missiles at the IDF and SLA outposts, including positions in the Jezzein enclave north of the zone, during a barrage that lasted over four hours.

IDF and SLA gunners responded by blasting Hizbullah targets and firing positions north of the zone. UN sources said the IDF and SLA had fired over 250 artillery shells in the morning long-range shootout.

The fighting resumed later in the day and continued intermittently until the evening. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said the Lebanese government would lodge a complaint with the United Nations Security Council over the shelling of Kfar Rouman, which he said had endangered civilians and caused property damage.

Hizbullah, in a statement issued in Beirut, said it had shelled over 20 IDF and SLA positions in the morning. The statement said the attacks were to mark "Jerusalem Day" at the end of the month-long Ramadan fast.

Deputy Hizbullah leader Sheikh Naim Kassem was quoted in Lebanese newspapers yesterday as saying that the organization would continue to escalate the fighting. "We will never let the occupiers rest and we will intensify the fighting until we get

every inch of our land back," Kassem was quoted as saying.

Syria, meanwhile has rejected Israel's calls to restrain Hizbullah and help restore calm in south Lebanon.

Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khadam was quoted in Lebanese newspapers yesterday as saying that the "resistance has the right to fight the occupation."

"This is a Lebanese group which is fighting to liberate its national territory. It is not fighting in Israel. It is fighting the Israelis on Lebanese soil," he said.

Similar comments were made by Syria's ambassador to the US Walid Mualim who was also quoted in the Lebanese press yesterday.

He said maintained that there was no linkage between resistance operations in south Lebanon and the possible resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria.

"As long as Israel's occupation [of the security zone] goes on the resistance will continue. It's a legitimate reaction. If Israel is so worried about Hizbullah's actions the answer is simple - a fair and comprehensive peace which will follow Israeli withdrawals from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights," Mualim was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, former Hizbullah secretary-general Soubhi Toufelli was quoted in the Ad-Diyar Lebanese daily as saying that missing IAF navigator Ron Arab might be dead.

Toufelli said Arab was not being held by Hizbullah nor Iran. "We have no precise information about his fate of the plane he is being held, or if he is alive. If you want my personal opinion, I would probably say that this pilot is dead," he was quoted as saying.

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NEWS

in brief

Electric high

Israelis used more electricity at 7 p.m. last night than at any other time in the country's history, Israel Electric Corporation spokeswoman Yael Ne'eman said last night. The new record of 6,500 megawatts broke the previous high set on Monday of 6,250 megawatts. *David Harris*

Feeding tube attached to Rabbi Schach

Rabbi Eliezer Menahem Schach was in stable condition after undergoing surgery yesterday afternoon at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital to attach a feeding tube to his stomach. The hospital said the surgery was successful, and he is recovering in intensive care. The 99-year-old rabbi was admitted Sunday with serious breathing difficulties and was attached to a respirator. Prayers were held yesterday for the rabbi at yeshivas around the country. *Tim*

Nurses may intensify sanctions

Labor unrest is expected to intensify in the hospitals later this week, if no progress is made in talks with nurses, who held a warning strike yesterday. Hundreds of non-emergency operations were postponed, and thousands of outpatient clinic visits and diagnostic institute examinations were canceled. The nurses are demanding solutions to the severe overcrowding of the general hospitals by increasing the number of nurses. Doctors too have hinted that they will soon join the struggle. *Judy Siegel*

Wanted for transplant: Celebrity organs

By JUDY SIEGEL

Israel Transplant's efforts to get large numbers of well-known personalities to declare themselves as potential organ donors have so far failed, but information campaign efforts will continue. Dr. Pierre Singer of Israel Transplant, the national transplant coordinating center, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that there weren't many prominent people listed in the ADI registry, and that he was disappointed that few agreed to register as potential organ donors, and even fewer were willing to have the fact known. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday viewed a promotional film for organ donation that was prepared by Israel Transplant for showing in the Israel Defense Forces, voluntary organizations and a few schools. He did so while meeting with the country's leading transplant surgeons, who urged action to increase public willingness to register and to donate the organs of deceased loved ones. Matza, who is new to the job, has not yet registered with ADI, but he told officials he would "consider it."

Israel Transplant director Professor Ami Barzilai said that to supply needy Israelis with organs, 20 donors per million of the population were needed annually; the potential in Israel is 100 per million, but in reality, organs are taken from only eight donors per million.

He asked the doctors about the possibility of reaching transplant agreements with Eastern European countries, but they were not enthusiastic: these countries mostly want money to develop their medical facilities; their medical expertise and laboratory facilities are relatively poor and Israel could not receive organs unless it agreed to send unneeded ones abroad.

Barak may allow state attorney opinion on Katz murder retrial

By EVELYN GORDON

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak will decide soon whether to permit the State Attorney's Office to submit an independent opinion which contradicts that of the attorney-general on the question of a retrial in the Danny Katz case. Five Arabs were convicted of raping and murdering the 15-year-old Katz in 1985. The Supreme Court upheld the conviction and also refused to grant a second hearing with an expanded panel of justices. Due to the persistent questions about the case, however, then-justice minister David Liba'i ordered a probe by Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp in 1992. Karp concluded that a retrial was in order, and the five formally requested one on the basis of her findings. Barak, who must decide on the request,

asked then-attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair for his opinion, and Ben-Yair responded that while there was not enough evidence of a problem to make him request a retrial himself, there were enough questions that he felt he could not oppose the defendants' request. However, State Attorney Edna Arbel did oppose it, and in a highly unusual move, submitted a detailed statement of her position to the court. Yesterday, Barak held a hearing on whether Arbel's statement was admissible. Nava Ben-Or, head of the Justice Ministry's criminal division, argued that Ben-Yair himself attached considerable importance to Arbel's objections, as witnessed by the fact that he referred to her position in his statement to the court. Furthermore, she said, there is a wide range of opinion on the subject, ranging from Karp's support for a retrial through Ben-

Yair's in-between stand to Arbel's opposition. Since both the Karp report and Ben-Yair's position are before the court, she said, it is only fair that the other side of the spectrum should be represented as well. The defendants' attorney, Avigdor Feldman, disagreed vehemently. The law specifically names the attorney-general as the state's voice in retrial requests, he said; the State Attorney's Office has no standing. It is very damaging to the public's faith in the legal system for the state attorney to be undermining the attorney-general, he continued, adding that it is particularly grave for the State Attorney's Office, which is in charge of upholding the law, to be flouting it in this fashion. At the two sides' request, the main question of whether to hold a retrial has been deferred until after Barak rules on Arbel's

statement. The request for a retrial revolves around three main issues. First, the defense was not informed during the original trial that the defendants were interrogated by the General Security Service, and were given no material from this interrogation. This material might have helped the defendants support their claim that their confessions were false ones extracted by force. Another argument is that the original defense attorneys were incompetent. Though they were replaced during the appeal, several points could not be raised on appeal because they had not been raised in the original trial. Finally, there were several questions which arose even during the original trial, such as the lack of any physical evidence connecting the defendants to the crime.

Negotiations to resume in Haifa Chemicals dispute

By EVELYN GORDON

THE management and workers of Haifa Chemicals agreed to resume negotiations, after a lengthy mediation session with the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday. According to the agreement reached with the committee's assistance, the works committee will abandon its control of the factory gates. They will be replaced there by other existing employees, chosen by and answerable to management.

Management, meanwhile, promised not to take any unilateral action for the next two weeks. At the start of the meeting, managing director Ami Cohen said he would not reopen negotiations with the workers until they obeyed a court order to abandon the factory premises - especially the front gate - and flatly refused MKs' suggestion that he promise in exchange to refrain from taking any unilateral action in the meantime. Cohen added that he had offered a compromise to the work-

ers, whereby the works committee members at the gate would be replaced with six "second-generation" workers - younger, more recently hired employees - plus six new employees to be hired by management. However, he said, the works committee refused. The eight MKs present, however, all expressed considerable sympathy with the works committee's position. First of all, they said, the works committee's fear that management would begin reopening the company with other

workers or make other unilateral changes if they abandoned control of the gates was understandable. However, the MKs were puzzled over Cohen's insistence on hiring six new employees for the gate, after management announced 120 dismissals. "What disaster would occur if you used only existing 'second-generation' workers?" demanded committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor). Cohen responded that the company intends to transfer several

functions to outside contractors over the next year, including guarding the gate. Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) responded that even if the gate is transferred to an outside company later, there is no reason why existing employees should not guard the gate now, while negotiations are proceeding. The other MKs agreed, and eventually Cohen consented. At the MKs' urging, he also promised not to make any unilateral changes during the next two weeks.

70 more workers lose jobs in Beit She'an

By DAVID RUDGE

Dismissal notices were sent yesterday to 70 workers at separate places in Beit She'an, dealing another blow to the development town suffering from high unemployment. Thirty-five employees of Beit She'an Engines, which refurbishes engines of IDF vehicles, had hoped that new orders from the Defense Ministry would stave off the threat of the factory being closed. Management of the privately owned firm closed the gates of the plant on Sunday due to insufficient work and lack of orders. Pinni Kabalo, head of the Histadrut branch in the town, called on the prime minister, the defense minister and Foreign Minister David Levy, a resident of Beit She'an, to intervene to save the company. "So far, we haven't even received a reply to our appeal. The factory has received seven more engines for refurbishing, but that's nowhere near enough to keep it going," said Kabalo. At the other end of town, 35 people employed on the ongoing archaeological dig also received dismissal notices. "The workers were promised by David Levy just two months ago that there would not be any cuts in the workforce at the site. Now, 35 of the 120 workers have been dismissed," said Kabalo.



Abu Said with his father Taher Abu Said and his nurse Naomi Shor at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem. (Avi Hayon)

Hadassah performs a world's first in genetic therapy

By JUDY SIEGEL

Israel's first attempt at gene therapy through a transplant of umbilical-cord blood was performed yesterday on an infant from eastern Jerusalem suffering from severe combined immunodeficiency disease (SCID), a genetic and usually fatal disorder. Doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem said

they would know in a few months whether the treatment cures the disease. The Arab baby's older brother died not long ago from the same disease, which is carried by their parents, who were childless during their first 10 years of marriage and are first cousins. When the second child was born, his umbilical cord blood was collected in the hope that it could be

used to treat him later. He was recently transferred from the capital's Bikur Holim Hospital to Hadassah's national bone marrow transplantation center, where its director, Prof. Shimon Slavin, and his colleagues decided to try a unique gene therapy technique. Fewer than a dozen such gene-therapy transplants for SCID have been performed anywhere abroad. SCID is caused by the lack of a vital enzyme, adenosine deaminase. The patient's body is unable to protect itself from infections due to an almost non-functioning immune system. It was recently proven that such children can be helped by getting the enzyme synthesized from cattle, but the material is very expensive (hundreds of thousands of dollars a year) and over time, it's liable to lose its effectiveness. Even then, the disease is not cured.

Experiments have shown that one could give the patient genetically engineered cells to repair the gene defect. The eastern Jerusalem child was regarded as a suitable candidate for the procedure, in which 50 cc of his umbilical cord blood, containing the genetically altered cells, were transfused. The treatment was carried out in full cooperation with a team from the Raphael Institute near Milan headed by Prof. Claudio Bordignon, who specializes in gene therapy. Dr. Arnon Nagler of the national umbilical-cord blood bank at Hadassah said it was the first SCID transplant of frozen cord blood in the world. In addition to fighting immune diseases using this method, Hadassah plans using genetically engineered cells for treating cancer in cooperation with US companies that are in advanced stages of production.

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Tour guide: Dr. Yoash Zohar

Monday March 17 LAND OF MILK AND HONEY
Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine - we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of Kail, and continue on to the olive oil press at the Druse village of Yanuah, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmot Dvora and its silk production unit. The Galilee is especially beautiful at this time of the year. Join us! NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Israel Shalem

Tuesday March 25 IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nahal Toot on the trail of lupins, the "Cyclamen Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hamoreh. Lunch at Kibbutz Tirt Zvi. NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Hagar Leshner

Thursday April 3 ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more. NIS 175
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday April 24 IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family. NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Danny Welles

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Sharif
Man charged with Irish nationalist's murder
Author Iris Murdoch has Alzheimer's

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Sharif pledges bold reforms for Pakistan

Post news agencies

LAHORE - Pakistan's prime minister-elect Nawaz Sharif said yesterday his government would implement "very bold reforms" to rescue an economy he said was ruined by the previous government of Benazir Bhutto.

Benazir Bhutto has totally destroyed our economy, so we'll have to bring in very bold reforms," he told a news conference in his home city of Lahore.

He was speaking after official results confirmed a landslide win for his Pakistan Muslim League in voting for a new National Assembly (lower house).

"Since we have an overwhelming majority, we are preparing a fresh agenda" for reforms, Sharif said, adding that he would be ready to talk about them in detail in three or four days.

The elections were forced by President Farooq Leghari's dismissal of Bhutto's government on November 5 on corruption and other charges, all of which she denies.

Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was humiliated in the elections, has complained bitterly of rigging even though international observers say they saw only minor irregularities.

She has hinted she may not

accept the results, threatening more of the political instability that has bedeviled Pakistan, but Sharif said he believed Bhutto would concede in the end.

"This is what she says now, but later she will accept the results of the elections because everyone else will," he said.

Sharif suggested he would abide by tough economic decisions made

by the caretaker government Leghari installed, including conditions for a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

"I think we'll go along with all those points which are in the interests of the country, and I am sure that was the intention when the program was being framed," he said.

"I also feel there will be room for reforms we are contemplating," Sharif added.

The wealthy industrialist said he envisaged rationalization of the tax system, drastic spending cuts to help manage Pakistan's heavy debt burden and creating an investor-friendly environment.

"We will provide more and more incentives in the shape of tax holidays and tax reforms to the investor," he said in his sprawling home that swarmed with well-wishers and party faithful, who were beating drums, waving flags and dancing.

"I think if we have any restrictions on the rupee, foreign exchange, they will have to be removed completely," he added.

Sharif was clearly delighted with election results that surpassed his expectations. "I was expecting a comfortable majority, but this is something more than a comfortable majority and I wasn't expecting that," he said.

Latest election results

ISLAMABAD - Here are the latest results in polling for the 217-seat Pakistan National Assembly (lower house):

- PARTY SEATS
- Pakistan Muslim League (PML) 121
- Pakistan People's Party (PPP) 12
- Mohajir National Movement (MQM) 11
- Pakistan People's Party-Shahid Bhutto (PPP-SB) 1
- Awami National Party (ANP) 8
- Tehrik-i-Insaf (Justice Movement) 0
- Smaller parties/independents 17



Pakistan's premier-elect Nawaz Sharif waves to supporters in Lahore as first election results showed him leading the polls. (Reuters)

Man charged with Irish journalist's murder

DUBLIN (Reuters) - A 32-year-old Dublin man was yesterday charged with the murder of Veronica Guerin, Ireland's top investigative crime reporter who was shot dead by a motorcycle pillion passenger in an apparent contract killing last June.

Paul Ward has been in custody for months on charges of conspiracy to murder Guerin, but these were withdrawn when the new charge was laid against him.

Ward was one of half a dozen prisoners at Dublin's Mountjoy jail who held wardens hostage for several days this year in a protest against conditions and the charges against them.

Guerin was gunned down at the wheel of her car at a traffic lights outside Dublin by the passenger on a motorbike which drew up beside her and then sped away after the shooting.

Police believe her killers were hired to prevent the exposure of the Dublin criminal underworld.

She had for years specialized in stories about Ireland's murky gangland, especially drug barons enriching themselves from a growing narcotic trade.

Her killing outraged the public and government and brought in new laws empowering the authorities to seize money and property owned by suspected criminals.

Police have questioned suspects in parts of Britain and Ireland in one of the biggest investigations ever mounted.

Guerin's murder was hailed as a tragedy by the International Press Institute, journalists and by her employers, the Independent Newspaper group.

She was the crime correspondent of the Irish Independent.

Guerin was shot once before the June incident but refused to halt her reporting.

Author Iris Murdoch has Alzheimer's

LONDON (Reuters) - Iris Murdoch, author of 26 novels and one of Britain's most intellectually brilliant writers, is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, her husband said yesterday.

The public announcement through a Daily Telegraph newspaper interview followed months of rumors about the 77-year-old Irish-born Murdoch's apparent writers' block.

Iris has Alzheimer's. There is no doubt about it," Murdoch's husband John Bayley told the Daily Telegraph.

It is rather like falling from stair to stair in a series of bumps, though it seems to be happening relatively slowly," Six months ago, Murdoch had described her so-called writing block as being in a "hard dark place" from which she was trying to get out.

But she told the Daily Telegraph: "I'm afraid I am waiting in vain, perhaps I had better find some other kind of job." Murdoch, whose most recent novel Jackson's Cross was published in 1995, is one of only two writers to have won both of Britain's major literary awards - the Booker Prize and the

Milosevic ready to recognize opposition victory

By JULIANA BOJISLOVIC

BELGRADE (AP) - Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic moved yesterday to defuse the biggest challenge to his 10-year rule by recognizing the opposition's victories in municipal elections.

His move followed numerous twists and turns to regain control in his country and came after riot police provoked a storm of international protest by beating up pro-democracy demonstrators in Belgrade over the weekend.

In the past 10 weeks Milosevic has alternately raised and dashed hopes that he would concede the opposition wins in 14 cities across Serbia in November elections.

While the opposition reacted cautiously yesterday, this latest act appeared to be the president's genuine attempt to stop weeks of demonstrations and improve his government's international image.

But it may not be enough to end the protests or Milosevic's trouble.

The announcement came just before the start of the daily pro-democracy rally. When an

opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, told the crowd of Milosevic's decision, the protesters responded with cries against the president of "Resign! Resign!" In a letter to Premier Mirko Marjanovic published by the official Tanjug news agency, Milosevic said: "The election disputes ... have caused great damage to our country both domestically and internationally and it was high time to solve the problem." It was the first time since the crisis began that Milosevic had issued written instructions to Serbian authorities that were made public.

He instructed Marjanovic to have the government pass a special law that will accept the election results as confirmed by international reviewers. The premier called a government session yesterday.

Milosevic's refusal to accept the results of the Nov. 17 elections triggered an unprecedented wave of pro-democracy protests that went into their 77th straight day yesterday.

"I think that the state interest of improving relations of our country with the international community by far exceeds the significance of any number of seats in a handful of cities,"

Milosevic said. "This is a first step, but it is not enough," said Zoran Djindjic, head of the Democratic Party, one of the three parties comprising the Zajedno (Together) alliance that has led the pro-democracy movement.

"He finally accepted what he should have accepted 2 1/2 months ago," Djindjic told reporters among a crowd of 50,000 supporters who swarmed to the central Republic Square for the rally.

Pro-democracy activists have carried their protest into the country's cultural life, with film distributors closing down cinemas across Yugoslavia for two days beginning yesterday. The National Theater also canceled its performances until further notice to protest the police assaults on demonstrators Sunday.

The theater's director Aleksandar Bercek, a member of Milosevic's Socialist Party, resigned Monday at a theater meeting where the troupe condemned the "police occupation of Serbia's cities and the beatings of people in the streets of Belgrade," the Telegraph daily reported yesterday.

US, Britain, France freeze Nazi gold

By MARIYAN HENRY

NEW YORK - The US, Britain and France have agreed to freeze the "residual gold" they retain from the Nazi raids of the central banks of Europe, and this gold could be used in a Holocaust compensation fund, according to yesterday's editions of The New York Times.

"We've taken the first step, freezing the money in place," said Stuart Eizenstat, the under-secretary of commerce and the Clinton Administration's point man on property restitution. "But we don't have any agreement yet on what to do next," he told the Times.

For the last half-century, the three states, operating as the Tripartite Gold Commission, have distributed more than 300 metric tons of gold in restitution to the European national banks. Jewish groups have contended that some of this gold may belong to Nazi victims and have asked to receive the gold still held by the Gold Commission.

Since October, Eizenstat has repeatedly said that the US would consider making the residual gold available for a compen-

sation fund, once Washington completes its historical review of its own war-era activities regarding Nazi loot. An interim report on that review is due out by the end of the month.

"We can't have any policy about what we do in the future until we know what the actual circumstances were," he said on a number of occasions.

There is about \$68 million in residual gold now held by the Gold Commission.

Under the Allied agreement that established the commission, the funds must be distributed to governments, not to organizations.

France, over the weekend, told officials of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, that the residual gold could go to a victims' fund. This was thought to be gesture to deflect attention from the so-called "flats scandal," in which French authorities were thought to have taken over hundreds of apartments left vacant by Jews killed in death camps.

The ultimate distribution of the residual gold is separate from the discussions in Switzerland about a Holocaust compensation fund.

Hungarian police face fight against 'mafia'

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Hungarian police said yesterday they were making little headway against an escalating war between gangs whose latest battlefield was a luxury car dealership attacked with hand grenades.

"The entire organized staff of the Budapest police is working on the bombing series, but we are short of manpower," Hungarian police spokesman Mihaly Deszi told Reuters.

Hungary's new national police chief, Anita Berta, told Hungarian radio he expected further attacks linked to what he called a "mafia war associated with the development of society."

At least three people have been killed and almost two dozen car showrooms, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs or peep shows damaged since September by hand grenades or petrol bombs.

Residents of the city of two million people are becoming alarmed by the rash of attacks, which has escalated in recent weeks.

Hand grenades thrown over a chain-link fence into the outdoor lot of the Auto Super dealership in the capital seriously damaged one car and caused minor damage to several others, police said.

It was the fourth attack in less than a

Mandela must tighten grip on SA's weak government

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - President Nelson Mandela's dragon-slaying blaze of glory having faded to a glimmer, political analysts say he needs to address fears that South Africa is sliding into chaos when he opens parliament on Friday.

Mandela, personification of the triumph over apartheid, has many achievements to his credit since taking office in May 1994, not least among them the final post-apartheid constitution that took effect at midnight yesterday.

But analysts say he can delay no longer in addressing perceptions that in many respects South Africa is collapsing in chaos.

In a typical symptom of the national malaise, South African robbers armed with handguns held up at least 40 foreign tourists in a Johannesburg tourist hotel before escaping with money and jewellery worth \$12,000 last week - and the news was promptly suppressed.

Tourists fleeced during the robbery were from America, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and Venezuela.

Police acknowledged yesterday that the news of the robbery, which took place last Thursday at the Backpackers Ritz hotel in Johannesburg's upmarket Dunkeld West suburb, had been deliberately withheld because of its "sensitivity."

Police are helpless to rein in the violent crime, taxes and rents go uncollected, and plans for economic reforms remain on the drawing board, hampered by a bloated, inert bureaucracy.

"What has been lacking all along has been firm govern-

ment," said David Welsh, professor of politics at the University of Cape Town.

"South Africa needs the smack of firm government... They have now really got to take the bull by the horns and govern effectively, which they haven't until now." He noted government administration had all but collapsed in some parts of the country like the former black homelands of Transkei and Ciskei in Eastern Cape province.

An anthropologist doing research in rural Mpumalanga province said the government's writ did not run outside major urban centres there.

"One of the tribal leaders I spoke to said he missed the good old days under apartheid. At least the trains ran on time," said the anthropologist, Robert Thornton of Witwatersrand University. Steven Friedman, director of the independent Centre for Policy Studies think tank, said that in his speech to parliament on Friday Mandela should list at least some achievable targets.

"Building confidence and creating the sense that the problem is being addressed is important even if you know you're not going to deal with the whole problem," he said.

A series of impressive-sounding master plans to tackle crime have had little appreciable impact, the publicity surrounding each new initiative being quickly eclipsed by front-page stories of rapes, robberies or car hijackings.

"In terms of public confidence, Mandela has to do something about crime," Friedman said. "They produce these mega plans that nobody believes, quite correctly."

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Legislative distractions

OUT of the blue, two strange and unlikely proposals have hit the political scene: a bill requiring the prime minister of Israel to be Jewish, and a bill granting Israeli citizens abroad the right to vote. The Knesset president yesterday rightly refused to allow the first bill to be presented for discussion, while the second bill simply deserves to fall by the wayside. Nevertheless, both pieces of would-be legislation show that as Israel approaches its 50th anniversary, the dust has not yet settled on the question of what it means to be a Jewish state.

Of the two, the private member's bill introduced by Geshet MK Michael Kleiner, requiring that the prime minister be a Jew, according to the definition in the Law of Return, is certainly the more outrageous. Under a clause in the Knesset House Rules which bars the submission of bills considered racist, the Knesset president had no choice but to reject the Kleiner bill.

In response to charges of racism, Kleiner points to the fact that Israel's Declaration of Independence defines Israel as a Jewish state. He also cites the precedent of the American constitution, which requires that the president be born in the United States.

Most Israelis strongly believe that Israel is and should be a "Jewish state," even if few are able to define what that means beyond the fact that a majority of its citizens are Jewish. Kleiner presumably believes that mandating a Jewish prime minister helps ensure the Jewishness of the state.

There was a time, before the election of John F. Kennedy, when it was thought that a Catholic could not be elected president of the United States. But some day, no doubt, a woman, or an African-American, or a Jew will win the American presidency. Few things signal the strength of democracy more than the ability of the majority to elect a member of a heretofore discriminated-against group to lead them.

If the Jewishness of the state is seen to prevent the possibility, however unlikely, of a member of the Israeli-Arab minority from becoming prime minister, then the ideal of the Jewish state takes on a chauvinist hue. It would be a sad day for Zionism if the Jewishness of the state came to refer only to the ethnicity of its leaders and not the content of their leadership. It is for this reason, perhaps, that no less than the father of Revisionist Zionism, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, suggested the possibility of a Jewish state with an Arab president and a Jewish prime minister.

The second bill, introduced by Likud MK Reuven Rivlin, is also problematic from a Zionist perspective. His bill, which would grant

Israeli emigrants to the right to vote in national elections, has been met with a fair amount of demagoguery on both sides. Its sponsor has essentially admitted that his primary motivation was to counterbalance the Israeli-Arab vote with more Jewish voters, a solid majority of whom voted for coalition parties in the last election.

It certainly takes a fair amount of cynicism for the supposedly more nationalistic party to become the champion of Israelis who have chosen to emigrate from Israel. It is true that many emigrants are only abroad temporarily, and are as tied to Israel's fate as any Israeli. The proposed law would not, however, discriminate between temporary and permanent emigrants, so that many of the added voters would be making decisions whose consequences they did not fully share.

Some proponents of the absentee voting bill, such as Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, argue that further involving emigrants in Israeli elections will strengthen their ties to Israel, and perhaps lead some of them to return. This argument seems a bit far-fetched, but the counterargument that limiting the vote to resident Israelis will encourage immigration is also exaggerated.

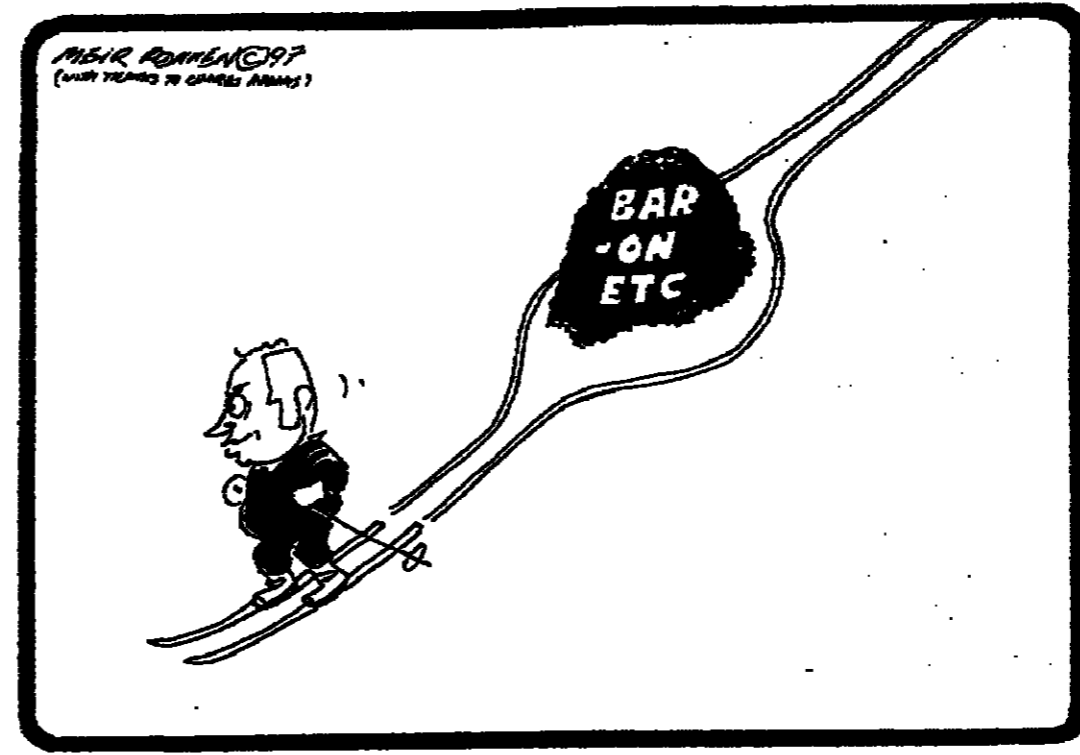
In the end, the debate about absentee voting is about whether Israel is or should be a "normal" country like the United States or Britain, which have no desire to stigmatize their citizens who live abroad, and therefore facilitate those citizens' ability to exercise their right to vote.

Israelis abroad retain the right to vote, but to exercise that right they must return to Israel—as many do judging from the swelling arrivals at the airport before election day.

The distinction can be made that Israel, unlike other modern democracies, faces existential decisions, and maintains a citizen-army that must defend the country on a daily basis. Critics of the Rivlin bill have pointed out that it was the Likud that so strenuously objected to Labor's vision of a "New Middle East," and now they are acting as if such a state of "normal" bliss has already arrived.

In this 100th year since Theodore Herzl opened the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Israelis are asking themselves what Zionism means today. Although the somewhat contradictory proposals to mandate a Jewish prime minister and to facilitate absentee voting may help spark debate on the nature of a Jewish state in today's world, in a larger sense they are distractions from the real task at hand.

The real challenge is to tackle the twin challenges of a secure peace and freer economy, which, if achieved, will attract enough immigration to make both bills moot.



Pressure always pays

After Hebron," the prime minister promised. Israel would "insist on reciprocity." But why postpone something so crucial, so basic until after the IDF's withdrawal from the city?

More than that, why wasn't rectifying PLO violations made a condition for our withdrawal in the first place? The premier had no explanation.

Immediately after signing the Hebron agreement, almost three weeks ago now, Israel honored its first obligation — redeployment. And the PLO? In a matter of days, it chucked up several blatant violations of its undertakings:

* Patrolling the Hebron area with weapons, forbidden in the agreement (and, incidentally, stolen from Israel);

* Operating in Jerusalem (i.e. taking over additional institutions such as Makassed Hospital, and appointing additional PA members to the Higher Moslem Council, a supposedly independent body. Jamil Nasser, the PA "governor" of Jerusalem—a post that exists in violation of every agreement—told Gaza's Al-Hayat el-Jadida last month that Yasser Arafat had instructed PA offices everywhere to "give preference to Jerusalem" in their activities, something expressly forbidden by the Hebron and Oslo agreements.

* Conducting foreign affairs in Orient House via Faisal Hussein, the PLO's minister for Jerusalem affairs);

* Holding a dialogue with Hamas leaders in Hebron, and reopening two institutions that belong to Hamas's infrastructure, which the PLO pledged to "combat systematically and effectively";

* Inciting to violence. Security Chief Jibril Rajoub wasn't the only senior PA figure to indulge in a few choice words of incitement. In the speech he made in Hebron, Arafat didn't restrain himself much either.

The prime minister singled out Arafat's speech in Hebron for its "moderation" — and his words were coated with peace, it's true — but underneath it was business as usual.

The thousands who listened to the chairman heard him reiterate all the sentiments that have char-

acterized his past speeches. Just as from the podium of every city he has entered, in Hebron too Arafat proceeded to glorify the Palestinian "martyrs," going on to name the names of notorious terrorists who came from Hebron.

He repeated his vow to those martyrs, urging the crowd repeatedly to "continue on to Jerusalem," and paying tribute to

understands only pressure," he said. "Anyone who believes this is an ideological government is living in a fantasy world." This is the PLO's view even after the Hebron agreement. Pressure pays, explained Arafat confidant Mamdouh Nofal, in a long article in the Ramallah daily Al-Ayam. And Saeb Erekat told a Tel Aviv University audience recently that if the process doesn't move forward, "there will be a resurgence of the September riots."

"All options are open," Arafat keeps warning. The most recent example of his sense of having the total upper hand over Israel was a January 24 statement he made to France's Le Monde about the PLO Covenant.

"The Israelis want us to draft a new charter, while they have no constitution," he said. "We will draft a new charter when they draft a constitution." I'm surprised our prime minister didn't seize the opportunity to praise Arafat for his solicitude regarding Israeli democracy.

It doesn't take a prophet to predict what lies in store for us over the next few months.

The PLO will continue its violations in order to achieve its goals, and Israel will do nothing much in reaction. Every controversial issue will engender more PLO threats, which will lead to worse violence than we witnessed last September.

When that happens, the prime minister will yield again, reiterating his commitment to the agreement. Once again he will hug his "friend and partner" in the peace process.

Israel's Arab citizens also sense the way the wind is blowing. "Sometimes I hate my eyes," said noted Israeli actor Mohammed Bakri of his bright blue orbs the day after the Hebron agreement, "since their color is the color of the Israeli flag." And no one even blinked.

And this from Hadash MK Hashem Mahamed, who told Palestinian Radio at the end of last month: "We raped the government. When we go out against them, they retreat."

HOW HAS the PLO come to understand Netanyahu's reluctance to insist upon PA compliance as a precondition for continuing the peace process? PA minister Yasser Abed Rabbo put it very nicely four days before the PLO's instigation of the September riots. "The government of Israel

The writer is a former prime ministerial adviser on counterterrorism.

Orthodoxy or nothing

What is it about the Reform Movement, a fledgling entity in Israel, that so troubles the Orthodox community?

The Orthodox parties in the Coalition have threatened to leave the government if "recognition of any sort is accorded to Reform Judaism" (Moshe Gafni, United Torah Judaism).

It isn't the number of Jews in the country who formally define themselves as "progressive religious" that bothers the religious establishment; it is the very idea of an alternative approach to Jewish life.

Orthodoxy's titular heads reason that it is better to hold a monopoly on the religious life of Israeli Jews even if the vast majority of those Jews reject its brand of Judaism and thus live a life devoid of religious meaning.

It is clear that religious pluralism is essential for a democratic state. But the issue goes much deeper: It is that the secular government of a primarily secular democratic state has determined that its secular population will have access to no form of Judaism other than Orthodoxy.

Should any Jewish citizen therefore opt to conclude any religious contract — conversion, marriage, or divorce — via a nonorthodox religious movement, he or she would be in possible violation of the law, and penalized accordingly.

With the sole authority for religious matters invested in the hands of the Orthodox, Israelis who are "turned off" by

Orthodoxy — not only because of the way they see it played out on the political front but also because of genuine ideological objection — are being denied the guidance they may need to achieve spiritual fulfillment.

An open and critical approach to Jewish tradition that takes the challenges of modernity into

Reform rabbis aren't bogeymen. They just show the way to another kind of Jewish life

account is, moreover, essential to our national emotional health.

NOW Orthodoxy cautions that Reform Judaism is an assimilationist movement that embraces mixed marriage. But such a portrayal is greatly exaggerated.

Assimilation and mixed marriage, and even patrilineal descent are a product of the sociological realities of the Diaspora. It is faulty logic to apply the demands placed upon a minority religion in another country to the freedoms that should exist for a dominant religion in its own country.

Orthodoxy hides behind the cloak of Halacha to present its case for maintaining exclusive authority over religious matters.

The writer directs the Israel Office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform) in Jerusalem.

Grain drain

GWYNNE DYER

Nobody reading this newspaper will starve, even if there is a global famine. Even in famines, only the poor starve.

If you live in a country rich enough to import grain at inflated prices and distribute it domestically, you will also not starve, even if you are poor.

But if you live in a very poor country and you are not personally rich, then you are in great danger. For in the next few decades, there are practically bound to be global famines.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization believes we can eventually grow enough food to feed a world of 9.5 billion people. But in the short run, a lot of people may end up dead. It takes time to bring new land into production, or even to shift to new crop strains and high fertilizer use.

In the long run, in an increasingly free-trading world, rising grain supplies should lead to food prices affordable by the vast majority of the world's people. But on the way to stability markets often experience big short-term surges in demand or steep falls in supply, and those can still kill people, given that most of us eat several times a day.

The global market in food has only come into being in the past 20 or 30 years, and mostly it provides people with more food at better prices. But it also creates the possibility of a global famine.

Not a famine where everybody starves, of course; only the poor. We are talking about a global famine that hits poor countries everywhere, because they cannot pay the exorbitant prices grain will rise to if there is even a temporary worldwide shortfall in the amount of grain available.

THE NEW factor in the current equation that makes such an unprecedented event possible is the "China syndrome": the fact that as China and other Asian countries climb rapidly up the industrialization ladder, the first thing — hundreds of millions of newly affluent consumers — is to add more meat to their diet.

The average citizen in southern China already consumes more meat per capita than the Japanese. Even India, where vegetarianism is widely viewed as a sign of virtue, is seeing meat consumption soar. And the problem is that the more meat and animal products rich people eat, the less grain there is for poor people to eat.

In general, it takes two to five times the weight of grain to produce the same amount of meat: twice as much for chicken, five times as much for beef.

The FAO talks about a 50 percent rise in human population, and a 75 percent rise in grain consumption in the next half-century, which is about right. The figure even takes account of the fact that diet will improve as the majority of humankind moves into reasonably affluent societies.

But the population growth will occur gradually, over 50 years. The rise in meat consumption is happening explosively, right now.

World grain reserves are now lower than at any time since the '50s. A few more years of declining reserves and one really bad summer in the main grain-growing areas of the northern hemisphere, and we're looking at a worldwide shortfall of maybe 50 million tons of grain.

The first thing that happens then is that grain prices soar. And if we just stick with rationing by price, and everybody who can afford to goes on consuming food in their usual pattern, then the poorest 50 to 100 million people on the planet begin to starve.

We can't just let them die, and there is only one way we could collectively prevent it.

We would have to be willing to slaughter enough livestock worldwide to free up the necessary amount of grain for human consumption. It wouldn't be very high-quality grain, but it would beat starvation.

There are probably "meatless Fridays" ahead for a lot of people, and not very far ahead. There will be a great food crisis, and food will become permanently a good deal more expensive than it is now. And some people will die along the way.

But the higher prices probably will, in the end, provide the incentives for major new investment in production. The market does work, in a brutal sort of fashion, so long as the physical constraints do not become insuperable. There is probably room — just — to increase food production by 75 percent over the next 50 years. Despite its apparent prosperity, the whole human race is moving into survival mode.

The writer is a journalist and historian based in London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HYMN OF HATE

Sir, — When you talk to my old friend David Gross, you would think he is the gentlest of men, but when he sits down before his computer, he seems to be transformed into a raging bull, as is shown by his hymn of hate against the left, "Our liberal elite" (January 26).

To refute all the absurdities and misrepresentations in this screed would take more space than the original. Gross does not give a single quotation to justify his charges that the "liberals" call themselves "the nation's elite" and "use all means, some fair but mainly foul, to sabotage the functioning of the elected government."

It was not the left which was responsible for Netanyahu's dubious and abortive appointments, or his "forgetting" to find a cabinet post for Sharon until he was ignominiously forced by David Levy to stitch together a portfolio for him.

It was not the "liberals" who made him drag his feet in the peace process until he was sum-

moned to Washington and forced to talk to Arafat.

The Bar-On appointment was a squalid political ploy that stank from the beginning. An under-qualified minister of justice, backed by an over-confident prime minister, insisted on appointing to one of the most sensitive posts in the country a personal crony of the minister and a loyal servant of the prime minister's party.

No wonder their coalition colleagues rebelled. It was they, not the left and the media, who led the opposition to the appointment. The media simply reported the stories of citizens who knew the candidate and had noticed his assembly behavior.

Gross fulminates against the "liberals" who dare to criticize the elected government. What a short memory he has! How could he forget the days when the settlers defied the law and clashed with the police, when the reactionaries exploited every act of terrorism to stage violent demonstrations at which the

EUROPEAN HYPOCRISY

Sir, — It has taken quite some time, but the nations of Europe are slowly revealing their true characters. If anyone thinks that anti-Semitism is a matter for the history books, he hasn't met the Europeans yet.

(1) Sweden (carefully "neutral," it must be remembered) sold the Nazis steel and iron ore (i.e., Sweden supplied the Nazis with vital material for their war machine) in return for tons of gold (i.e., material benefit). In other words, under the guise of neutrality (a suspicious term, at best), Sweden helped the Nazis kill their victims, with the Jews, of course, heading the list, in return for a nice profit. It is good to remember that, during the war years, Sweden couldn't be bothered to look into the source of the gold. Let us remember that

when they preach morality to us, for whatever reason.

(2) Switzerland, it is now generally acknowledged, rejected requests made after World War II and refused to allow the heirs of the murdered Jewish owners of Swiss bank accounts access to these accounts. Why return money to the Jews when the alternative is greater profit for the Swiss, who also pretended to be "neutral" during the war?

(3) Germany (the "other" Germany, remember?) and France (both "peace-loving" nations "friendly" to Israel) trade openly with Iran and Iraq, two of Israel's most dangerous enemies, in defiance of free-world or UN embargoes; they build them nuclear reactors (for "peaceful" use only, of course), in an attempt to per-

suade them to change their aggressive policies. The guise this time is "the need to keep channels open, to keep talking in order to lead them to moderate their natures."

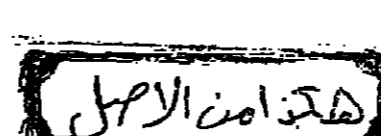
(4) Russia, despite the changes it seems to have undergone, once again shows signs of returning to its traditional positions with regard to support of the Arab countries and applying pressure to Israel. Why? Trade relations, of course, especially with Iran and Iraq, not to mention Syria.

One might unintentionally conclude that the nations of Europe specialize, not in culture, as they are fond of claiming, but rather in hypocrisy. Thy excel at that.

MISHA LOUVISH
Jerusalem.

ESTHER ABUTBOUL

Jerusalem.



The promiscuous poet and his underseasoned 'kishkes'

By DANIEL ROGOV

The annual holiday that marks the birthday of Robert Burns was celebrated in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee on January 25. Here, the Scottish community celebrated "Burns Night" eight days late.

Whatever, last Sunday, to the accompaniment of bagpipes with several kilts and more than a few tam o'shanter in sight, 200 people gathered at Tel Aviv's Sheraton Hotel for a dinner to celebrate the 238th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's most beloved poet. There may have been a lag between this celebration and those in Scotland but the tall tales and the jokes told, the tunes piped and the reminiscences of former Scotsmen were remarkably similar to those recounted in Burns' own village of Alloway.

The son of a poor plowman, Burns grew up in a two-room clay cottage, slept on a hideaway bed in the kitchen, and spent his youth with children of poverty. As a young man, his time was spent with farmers in the field, rowdy countrymen, beggars, and companions at the local inn. Because he was most at home with such common folk, he remained consistent in his loyalty to them and many of his poems speak to them and were written for them.

Among Burns' most beloved works are his love poems. Despite the often exquisite beauty of these poems, Burns had little consistency when it came to the female objects of his affection. From his early teens he showed such a passion for the local girls that he earned a not-at-all enviable reputation as a womanizer. In his early 20s he had an affair with a local girl, Jean Armour. When Jean became pregnant, the poet agreed to marry her but the girl's parents did not consider him respectable enough and rejected him.

Although he acknowledged the paternity of Jean's twins, Burns simply turned around and married Mary Campbell (Highland Mary) who was also pregnant by him. When Mary died in childbirth, Burns went through what he later called a "wee bout of promiscuity and drunkenness." Later, after Jean bore him two more children, he married her, and although he continued to have casual affairs, many of his loveliest poems were written for her.

In 1786, a provincial press published a small collection of Burns' poems. The little book found its way to Edinburgh, and Burns became the fashion of the moment.

Nothing could have been worse for the poet. From the moment he arrived in Edinburgh he lived in two worlds, one of the fashionable elite and the other of unsophisticated



At the dinner in honor of Scotland's most beloved poet, complete with bagpipes, a kosher version of haggis was served. (File photo)

ed countrymen. Restless and equally unhappy in both worlds, Burns began to drink even more heavily.

After a prolonged drinking bout, he developed a cold and a fever, went into delirium and never recovered. He died at 37, and 12,000 people of all classes followed his coffin to the grave.

Burns, aware of his lack of self-control, once called himself "a poor, damned, incautious, duped, unfortunate fool; the miserable victim of rebellious pride and bedlam passions." Far more important, however, is that Burns' poems show a love of life so keen that it went out equally to old friends, the dignity of "honest poverty" and to a mouse whose nest was accidentally destroyed by a plowshare.

The dishes prepared by the Sheraton's executive chef Hans Lilly for the celebration were traditionally Scottish, none more so than the haggis.

Whether the first recipe for haggis dates back to 1576 or 1678 is something Scotsmen love to argue about but this is a dish so Scottish that only Scotsmen claim to enjoy it. Some, speculating on the dish, claim that even Scotsmen despise the dish but have no choice but to eat when they tell others how tasty it is.

In its most traditional form, the dish is made by cleaning and turning inside-out the stomach of a sheep and then stuffing the stomach with oatmeal, beef suet, and the minced and chopped heart, liver and lungs of the sheep, all of which have been seasoned with salt, pepper, nutmeg, cayenne pepper and chopped onion. The resulting package is then boiled in a large pan with plenty of water, for three or more hours. Because of the demands of kashrut, the suet was not used, but the presence of oats, much to the delight of many present, was inescapable.

To understand the importance of oats in the Scottish diet, one need only be aware of the exchange between Samuel Johnson and an anonymous Scotsman.

When Johnson observed that "oats are a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people," the Scotsman replied: "Then that is why England has such fine horses and Scotland such fine men."

Although chef Lilly's adaptation of the dish, playfully entitled "a shwarma of haggis" pleased most of the Scotsmen present, others tended to agree that the dish resembled nothing more than an underseasoned kishke.

Easy pray

The approach to the year 2000 has led to growing Christian missionary activity among Jews, Semy Kahan reports

Sitting at home one afternoon, a few months ago, Tunisian-born Rivka Adir opened the door to two young women visitors to area "D" in Beersheva. They were very polite and opened the conversation by talking about different items in the news before switching to talk about the coming of messiah. They soon confessed to their belief in God and also in Jesus, and at this point Adir understood the real purpose of their visit. A similar visit was experienced by her neighbor, Tamar Chazi, who initially thought that the visitors' aim was to turn her into a religious penitent as they seemed to have a deep biblical knowledge.

And now, both express concern that their neighbors, many of who are immigrants from the CIS, seemed to be confused after the experience that they had with these two missionaries. They knew about families in distress who were offered various kinds of economic assistance by those women, as well as a variety of reading material with evangelical messages implied.

Meir Kobi, a community worker in Kfar Shalem in Tel Aviv, told me that he heard similar stories from quite a number of families in his neighborhood. Many of them were welfare cases whom missionaries had visited with an evangelical message and an offer of assistance in paying off debts and in funding activities for the children. The missionaries also invited the parents to weekend events in "hotels." According to Kobi, most of the families refused to cooperate with the missionaries but he knew of some cases of subsequent participation in community activities at Christian centers.

And these are just a few examples of growing Christian activity among Jews in various parts of the country, focusing mainly on immigrants and on families in distress. These activities have been accelerating with the approach of the year 2000, which has a special theological meaning in Christianity.

According to one of the beliefs adopted by many of these evangelizing groups, 2000 is an important landmark for Jews in the Diaspora,

a time for them to move to Israel and to convert to Christianity. And this explains why these Christians feel a need to intensify their work among Jews now.

In a conference held by Southern Baptists in the US last summer, 15 million believers were called upon to "direct the proclamation of the gospel to the Jewish people and to establish a strong witness among them by the year 2000." The Southern Baptists have produced a handbook for its missionaries in which they are advised on how to approach Jews and how to "share wisely with them the gospel."

These Christian groups and organizations, many of them based in Scandinavia and the US, declare their strong love and attachment to the Chosen People but, judging by their publications and by watching their activity among Jews, this love does not appear to be altruistic.

"Let us love the Jews and tell them about Jesus," declares Vartio in Finland, a group which organizes annual summer camps for Jewish children from the area in the CIS which was most affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe.

According to some of the children's own stories presented in Vartio's bulletin, they were subjected to "missionary work" in these camps.

In a publication distributed by the Swedish group Exodus, it said: "Our work is done in cooperation with Jewish organizations and religious Jews are following our activities. It is therefore preferable to use Messianic Jews to evangelize as they arouse less suspicion among their brethren."

When Jews in Israel and abroad are joining the rows of the Messianics, they are usually asked to commit themselves to convince other Jews to join them.

According to Lev Ahim, an organization combating missionary activities in Israel, there about 20,000 Messianic Jews in the country and their numbers are growing. According to the same source, they

are now increasingly volunteering in hospitals and old-age homes and manning hot lines. This is in harmony with their policy to focus on people who are under stress or have social and others needs.

SO WHAT fires these Christians? Most of them are Protestant but don't belong to the official Protestant Church establishment which is distancing itself from some aspects of their activities, including in most cases missionary work among Jews. The followers of these largely Protestant groups ascribe to the tenet that in the "End of the Days" their messiah will redeem the entire world, but unlike their Christian brethren they consider the Jewish people as an important part in their eschatological construction, and according to their Old and New Testament interpretation, the redemption will come when the Jews move to the Holy Land and convert to Christianity.

Among these groups there are different views about their missionary task in relation to Jews. Some of them are ready to wait until the "End of the Days," believing that the Jews will then, by their own conviction, have accepted Jesus as their messiah. Others think that they have to "assist" God in "his task," which for them means that they have to bring their Christian message to the Jews as a preparation for the redemption. This strategy is now being used more frequently.

The Christian Embassy in Jerusalem has declared that it doesn't support missionary work among Jews, however as an institution they do host these Christian groups who are strongly missionary. At the same time, the Christian Embassy also supports those in the Israeli political arena who are against the Oslo agreement and it is advocating keeping all Judea and Samaria under Israeli sovereignty to leave more room for returning Jews to settle.

The readiness of Jewish and

Israeli organizations to receive various forms of assistance from these Christians reflects some elements of hypocrisy, as they are aware of what the real aims of this Christian activity are.

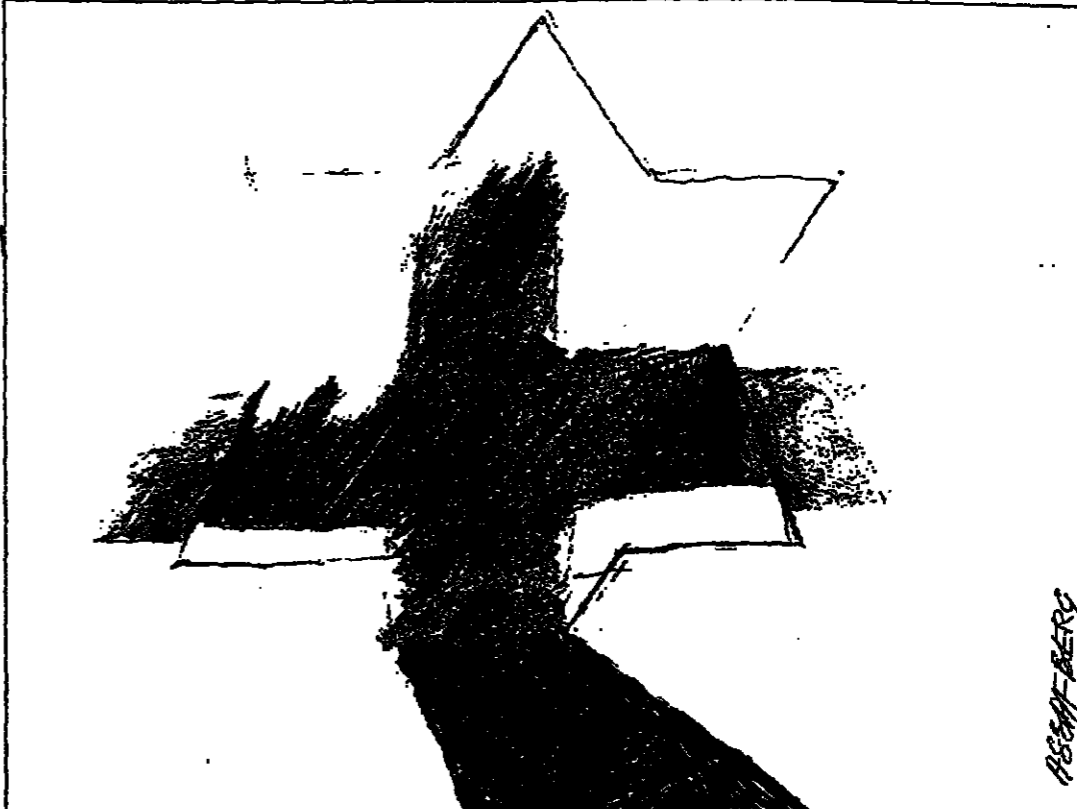
Up until now there has been minimal reaction to this phenomenon. The existing law against missionary work has not been implemented, not only due to its limitation but because of instructions by the attorney general not to implement it. This is often explained as a will to refrain from acts that may cause criticism and negative reactions from the Christian world.

Besides, today voices are heard in the Christian world that distance themselves from evangelization among Jews for theological and moral reasons. The World Council of Churches declared in 1988 that: "The living tradition of Judaism is a gift of God. With St. Paul in his letter to the Romans we recognize the continuing vocation of the Jewish people and the promise given to it as a sign of God's faithfulness. Proselytism is incompatible with Christian faith; claims of faith when used as weapon against anyone are contrary to the spirit of Christ."

The Lutheran European Commission in 1990 declared that: "Israel is not replaced by the Church... Christian triumphalism, which has long weighed heavily on the relations between Christians and Jews, is incompatible with a serious encounter and a honest witness."

Lawyers acquainted with the decisions by the UN's Human Rights Committee for Religious Freedom hold that there are certain paragraphs claiming that proselytism is against the spirit of freedom of religion.

The rise of evangelism in the run-up to the next millennium is a diversion from these statements. The time has surely come to say to the Christians: Yes to dialogue; yes to cooperation; but based on complete equality and mutual acceptance as entities in our own right.



GRAPEVINE

Here come the grooms

By GINGER FAY CASHMAN

Had things been different, preparations would have been underway for the celebration in March of the 75th birthday of Yitzhak Rabin. Notwithstanding yet another reminder of the tragedy of the prime minister's assassination, the Rabin family will nonetheless have cause to celebrate next month. The reason is the upcoming March marriage of Yitval Rabin, son of Leah and the late Yitzhak Rabin to Tali Henkin, his live-in companion. The ceremony, at the Dan Accadia hotel, will be the second time around for both. Also getting married again is singer Avi Rubinfeld, who is waiting for his bride-to-be Monica Podolskitch to complete her conversion process.

WHILE SOME 200 Likud loyalists convened last week to protest what they perceive as the media's bias against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, other card-carrying Likudniks have become so disenchanted with the PM and his manager that they are seriously considering cancellation of their party membership. But those with more far-reaching vision, among them Ya'el Amishav-Medved (an unsuccessful candidate in the Likud primaries), have decided to wait so that they can vote Bibi out of the party leadership. "He's the prime minister in name only," declares Amishav-Medved. "Everyone knows that he's Lieberman's poodle."

ACCORDING TO Ma'ariv reporter David Lipkin, who accompanied Netanyahu to Davos, the PM mended fences with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Thomas Friedman of The New York Times, who is regarded in some Israeli circles as having a more Arab bias. The PM and the pro-Arab bias of the fourth estate representative of the fourth estate met at the same table, at which time Netanyahu reportedly invited

PREVENTED BY a last-minute hitch from attending the Australia Day party hosted in Jerusalem by Australian Likud activist Jeremy Stock, Australian ambassador Peter Rogers sent his driver with a handwritten letter of apology on embassy note-paper and a hefty contribution of Foster's, which is Australia's best-known beer. Third Secretary Virginia Florman and her town-planner husband David joined Stock's many other guests from Down Under who included his uncle, business broker Gary Stock, physician Michael Goldsmith and a large group of youngsters who have just completed the two month Academy program sponsored by AIJUS, the Australian Union of Jewish University Students. Among them was Josh Landis from Bowral, New South Wales, whose Jewish community numbers just over 30 souls.

Stock had somehow acquired a didgeridoo, the traditional aboriginal wind instrument. One of the guests came dressed as Ned Kelly, Australia's most notorious bandit and huge Australian flags and other Oz memorabilia were draped all over the apartment, providing a colorful backdrop for portraits of Benjamin Netanyahu and Yitzhak Shamir.

ONLY THE Italians would start a ceremony with a song instead of a speech. At the opening in the Knesset of Giorgio Avigdor's photographic exhibition on A Window of Jewish Life in Piedmont, Sergio Josef Molcho, without any musical accompaniment, presented a soulful Piedmont rendition of "Kol Hanesama." Knesset speaker Dan Tichon asked David Cassuto, president of the Italian Immigrants' Association whether he was going to bring the remains of the (now disused) Piedmont synagogue to Israel. But Naomi Blumenthal, who chairs the Knesset committee on immigration and absorption, was more interested in bringing the remaining Italian Jews here.

for a party, and for music lovers Austrian ambassador Herbert Kroll and his wife Noraesy, the best excuse was Schubert's 200th birthday. The couple hosted a musical dinner in their elegant Herzliya home and imported a group of Salzburg musicians to play and sing Schubert lieder.

VANITY THY name is woman. Maybe so, but in Hollywood, the sobriquet applies equally to men, who are no less concerned than the fair sex about keeping up youthful appearances. Michael Jackson, the most publicized male in the entertainment world to submit to the knife of the plastic surgeon, is not alone on the alteration rack. Some of the others include Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nick Nolte, Burt Reynolds, Sylvester Stallone, Al Pacino, Robert Wagner and Dustin Hoffman, who've had lines and puffiness removed from around the eyes, nose jobs, hair and eyebrow transplants, and total facelifts.

Their favorite transformation center is an exclusive \$1,000-a-night clinic aptly called The Hidden Garden, where they remain for up to two weeks until post-surgery swelling and bruising disappears.

IT'S HARD to believe, but the gorgeous Farrah Fawcett turned 50 this week.

A LEGENDARY heart-breaker who's left a trail of lovelorn ex-boyfriends, Sharon Stone received a taste of her own medicine when she was dumped by Hollywood producer Barry Josephson, who bowed out of the relationship because he was sick and tired of pandering to her ego. Conversations with Stone were almost entirely about Stone who had to be incessantly reassured that she was the most beautiful, most talented, most intelligent, most desirable woman in the world. If Josephson neglected to mention her attributes, Stone would raise the subject herself. The constant

PARENTING

By RUTH MASON

Think again about baby carriers

In her book *You are Your Child's First Teacher* (Celestial Arts, Berkeley, California, 1989), Rahima Baldwin suggests that parents think twice about the popular practice of carrying infants in front packs, or snuglies.

"The widespread use of baby carriers [soft front packs] is beneficial in that it keeps the baby next to the mother's [or father's] body and frees the parent's hands for other work," she writes. "However, a word of caution is necessary. The weight of the head and brain and the weakness of the neck place a lot of strain on the central nervous system. In many other cultures, the baby is held vertically until she can hold her head up by herself."

Baldwin goes on to encourage parents to carry their infants in a commercial horizontal carrier, which can be bought, or a strong shawl adapted for that purpose. I checked with a couple of local baby experts to get their response to this idea.

Jeff Greenfield, M.D., a Jerusalem pediatrician, offered a word of caution to the caution.

"It's an interesting idea, but I

doubt there is any hard data suggesting that snuglies are harmful. We in the West are enthusiasts of the scientific method; we demand that hypotheses be proved or disproved.

"If the author knows of studies showing damage to the cervical spine or other structures caused by front packs, she should cite them. Citing selected cross-cultural practices isn't enough. There are probably many traditional cultures which do employ the equivalent of front packs.

"I personally haven't seen any medical-journal articles attesting to the danger of front packs. The human body is very resilient, and the cervical spine is very supple. There are enough real dangers out there. Let's not worry about theoretical ones."

Alex Tenenbaum, M.D., a developmental pediatrician and director of the Jerusalem Child Development Center, had this to say: "We don't recommend holding a baby vertically without supporting the head until the baby can hold his head up by himself. In the case of a front pack, the cloth supports the head from the back, and the parent's chest supports the head in front, but the head can still sway from side to side and this is

not recommended.

"In the first months, it is definitely better to hold the baby horizontally or semi-horizontally, in a 45-degree position, and not vertically. If he is held in a vertical

position without full support of the head before 12 weeks or so [when he becomes capable of supporting his head himself], his developmental capability may be compromised."

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM



SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

Flute, Violin, Viola & Cello Concert

with Smadar Sachs - Flute, Eitan Or-Noy - Violin, Irit Livne - Viola, Andrea Marcosh - Cello. Performing works by Paul Ben-Haim, Haydn & Mozart.

February 8
Concert at 20:30
Wine and Cheese at 20:00

Admission NIS 45; Maximum numbers, children, students, soldiers & seniors NIS 40. Proceeds benefit The Jerusalem Post Funds.

Next concert, February 15: Trio - Violin, Cello & Piano. Eleonora Lutsky - violin, Boris Maronovsky - cello Luba Agranovsky - piano. Works by Arensky & Rachmaninov



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BUSINESS

in brief

Private long-distance service begins August 1

Bezeq's two competitors in the supply of overseas phone service - Barak and Kavei Zahav - will start their operations on August 1.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said yesterday. At a ceremony in her office to formally award licenses to the two consortia (which were selected by public tender a few months ago), Livnat said Israel "now joins the advanced countries that have opened their international dialling services to competition." There is no doubt that rates for these services will fall significantly and the quality of services will rise, she said.

Judy Siegel

Orbotech receives \$4 million order

Orbotech Ltd. yesterday announced the receipt of an approximately \$4 million order for its flat panel display inspection equipment from an undisclosed Asian customer. Executive vice president Dan Falk said the order is the latest in a series of orders received from US, Korean and Japanese manufacturers, indicating that the flat panel display market may be picking up after a slowdown. Flat panel displays are used in the infrastructure of notebook and laptop computers.

Jennifer Friedlin

Elmo-Tech, Swedish prisons in \$2.7m. deal

Elmo-Tech, a developer of electronic monitoring and enforcement systems, yesterday announced the completion of a \$2.7m. order by the Swedish government.

The company's monitoring equipment has been supplied to the Prison and Probation Service of the Swedish Justice Ministry for the electronic tracking of prisoners under house arrest. The purchase of the equipment is part of the country's master plan to close eight prison facilities by redistributing inmates and employing the tagging system to monitor criminals who are punished to less than one year imprisonment.

Jennifer Friedlin

Heineken pays \$42m. for Tempo stake

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Dutch-based brewer Heineken has received an option to purchase 42.5 percent of Tempo Beer Industries for \$42.1 million, Tempo informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Tempo is one of the country's leading beverage manufacturers and a market leader in the beer field.

The company, which had a sales turnover of about \$500m. last year, holds an exclusive marketing concession for Heineken beers in Israel and is also a major supplier of soft drinks, including Pepsi.

According to the agreement, Moshe Podhorzer, one of the controlling shareholders, has granted Heineken or members of the Bar-Bornstein Group, which control Tempo, an option to purchase his shares in the local beer producer.

The agreement puts an end to the three-year dispute between the controlling shareholders in Tempo, which started after company founder Moshe Bornstein passed away.

Under the agreement, Podhorzer's shares will eventually be sold to Heineken, even if the Bar-Bornstein Group exercise its option.

Exercise of the option by the Bar family is subject to the family's sale of the shares to Heineken within 90 days, as of February 3, 1997.

The sale is also conditional to the Heineken family's holding of at least as many shares as the Bar-Bornstein Group, which currently controls 51% of Tempo's shares.

Attorney Ram Kaspi was appointed to serve as trustee for

the shares until Heineken acquires them. The buyers are required to inform Kaspi of their plans within 45 days. The transaction is subject to the approval of the Antitrust Authority at the Industry and Trade Ministry 60 days after the option is exercised.

The Bar-Bornstein Group has already informed Tempo of its plans to enter negotiations with Heineken in an attempt to turn the company into a strategic investor. Tempo said in an announcement.

Sources close to the company expect Tempo to be split into two companies after Heineken turns into a controlling shareholder. The first company will focus on the beer market, while the other will be active in the soft drinks market, specifically Pepsi.

In reaction, a company spokesman said that "at this stage nothing has been decided."

Pepsi International holds an option to acquire 50% of Tempo's soft drink company's shares. Market sources expect Pepsi to exercise its option after the Heineken-Podhorzer deal is closed.

In related news, Tempo announced it has reached an agreement with Heineken whereby it will receive the exclusive marketing concession in Israel to sell the Amstel 1870 beer label, in addition to Amstel labels.

It was also decided that Amstel will cease local production of Amstel brands, and Tempo will continue to import Heineken labels.

Tempo currently controls about 80% of the local beer market. The company employs 1,200 workers in its four factories.

Frenkel, Meridor leave shekel mechanism intact

Meridor: Budget to be cut more if revenue continues to slide

By DAVID HARRIS

There will be no change in either exchange rate policy or the mechanism which determines the value of the shekel, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

The two met behind closed doors in Meridor's office for what both called a regular meeting, but the discussion was held under a renewed sense of urgency because of the excessive strength of the shekel and the significant decline in state revenue.

"No decision was taken during the discussion, nor was one meant to be taken," said Frenkel.

The debate centered on both the strength of the shekel and fiscal policy, with the central bank calling for an immediate further

cut in the budget.

With regard to the shekel, some within the bank are calling on Frenkel to either abandon or alter the diagonal line mechanism. The bank uses this method to prevent the shekel from appreciating or depreciating more than seven percent from a middle point drawn from a weighted value of the difference between the inflation rate here and in the five leading economies, which graphed over time creates a diagonal line.

"There is no intention of altering the [diagonal] band," Frenkel said. "The central bank has been guarding the band for some time now and intends to continue to do this, without needing any monetary support."

"The band is fixed," Meridor said after the meeting. "It controls us."

Turning to the issue of fiscal policy,

Meridor said that if state income does not improve within the next two months a further budget cut will be necessary. "The ministers are all aware of this and we shall do it," he said. "I am not prepared to do this on the basis of one month, though."

"The key today is the need to return to budgetary restraint," said Frenkel. Despite the successful passage of the 1997 budget, including an overall NIS 7.2 billion cut, the Treasury is already reporting a shortfall in revenues for January. The government registered a NIS 1.283b. fiscal deficit, failing to meet its own target of spending less than it earned.

"This is a very worrying statistic, and I would advise them there [in the Treasury] to take note," Frenkel said.

Additionally, a statement published by the bank last night, in Frenkel's name,

expressed disappointment at the January statistics "after the considerable effort made by the government" in passing the budget. "The January [budget] deficit is simply too large. The solution will come when the budget is back under control."

Frenkel also rejected Treasury director-general David Brodet's accusation that the bank is wasting money by buying up foreign currency instead of lowering interest rates on a speedier basis than the 2.8% since August.

Answering questions about the relationship between the Treasury and bank, Meridor told journalists that he and Frenkel see eye-to-eye on the vast majority of issues.

He reminded the gathering that the Bank of Israel is fully independent of the Finance Ministry.



Ukrainian miners demand wages

Ukrainian miners bang their helmets protesting in front of the cabinet in Kiev yesterday. More than 2,000 miners took part in the rally, demanding their wages and pensions be paid.

(Reuters)

Keter in talks with prospective US partner

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Keter Group is in preliminary discussions to gain control of a public company in the US, through which it intends to raise capital, company general manager Sami Sagol said yesterday.

Keter, which is wholly owned by the Sagol family, has allocated \$60 million to investments in 1997-1998, most of which will go toward construction of new factories in Yokne'am, Ofakim and Barkan.

The company is the nation's leading manufacturer of plastic consumer products and one of the five largest such firms worldwide. It had a sales turnover of about \$200 million last year, of which exports accounted for about 80 percent.

Keter recently inaugurated a factory in Karmiel at a total investment of \$20m. Over the next few years \$20m. will be invested in both Yokne'am and Ofakim and \$6m. in a new plant in Barkan.

"Our expansion plans are based on many partnership agreements with local and international firms," said Sagol, adding that Keter intends to maintain its average growth rate of 20% a year.

To finance future activities, the owners are examining the possibility of raising capital overseas by investing in a US public company engaged in the plastics industry. Another option is to raise capital on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE).

"If the TASE recovers we will consider this option," said Sagol, adding that Keter has already met with several local and overseas companies.

Commenting on the economy, Sagol forecasted a 3-5% slowdown in purchase of consumer items this year.

The majority of the Keter Group's activities are in the US and Europe. The group has only recently started to sell to neighboring countries, mainly to Turkey, and to the Far East, mainly to Japan and Taiwan.

The group, which employs almost 10,000 people, comprises 11 factories - nine in Israel, one in Holland and one in the US. The factories manufacture about 1,000 products, including 200 principle items.

El Op launches restructuring plan

By STEVE RODAN

El Op - the Rehovot-based thermo-imaging, laser and electro-optical systems producer - has embarked on a reorganization plan aimed at increasing sales, company executives said yesterday.

The new structure of El Op, which reported \$270 million in sales last year, will be based on four independently managed profit centers.

El Op president Jacob Toren said the reorganization was based on the addition of subsidiaries and strategic partners of the company, a process that began in 1995.

"El Op's diverse range of customers, as well as its international market today, requires that we adapt ourselves, organizationally and administratively, to maintain our focus on this base, while from a management standpoint ensuring continued business growth and technological development," Toren said.

The four business groups include El Op Israel division, which will service the IDF and local defense establishment. This group will be responsible for the development, manufacture and

assembly of systems and products for the entire company. Currently, the IDF represents 50 percent of the company's local business.

The second group is El Op Asia-Pacific division. Executives said this entity will focus on marketing and business development around Asia, an area that the company has targeted for future growth.

El Op North America division will operate through three US subsidiaries - El Op USA, ODI and Kolsman Inc. These companies sell equipment to the US Army and Air Force, as well as for export.

The company's civilian sector will be confined to a separate division. El Op Civilian Systems division will coordinate all non-military activities, as well as technology transfer from military to civilian uses.

Some of the subsidiaries in this division include Fruitronics, Terra, FCM and Opgal.

Executives stressed that El Op seeks to expand its civilian business. Each project will result in the establishment of a separate subsidiary in conjunction with a strategic partner.

El Op's other divisions include one for marketing and business development and another for finance. The marketing entity will shape overall strategy but have direct responsibility for Europe, South America and Africa.

Toren said El Op, which has a current order backlog of \$500m., plans to develop a line of new products, including the development of second and third generation infrared thermal systems and laser and display systems.

"In the military arena, we anticipate expansion into additional areas such as aerial photography and remote sensing," Toren said. "In the commercial market, we will intensify our activities in the areas of medical equipment, super computers and automatic sorting systems, based on computerized

Major Japanese hotelier on brink of bankruptcy

By MIKI SHIMOGORI

TOKYO (Reuters) - A second big Japanese company, Gajoen Kanko KK, may go under this year, after Japanese banks turned their backs on the troubled hotel operator, banking sources said yesterday.

"The banks suspended their transactions with Gajoen, retroactive to January 6, after it failed to honor promissory notes for a second time," a banking source said.

Gajoen's main transaction banks are Fuji Bank, Sakura Bank, Sanitomo Bank and Asahi Bank, according to the company's quarterly report.

Leading credit research firm Teikoku Databank Ltd reported earlier yesterday that Gajoen, which runs hotels and wedding halls, had become insolvent with debts of 9.88 billion yen (\$80.9 million).

Gajoen said it could not make an immediate official comment. He said the company would hold an executive meeting in response to the situation and make an official comment later.

If the business failure is confirmed, Gajoen will be the second company on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's first section to fail this year, after sushi chain Kiyotaru Co Ltd made an insolvency filing in late January with debts of 101.3 billion yen (\$830m.).

Gajoen, established in 1948, went public in 1950.

A second failure to honor promissory notes is regarded in Japanese business practice as effectively a bankruptcy.

Corporate Japan has suffered a high rate of business failures in recent years and more pain is expected as the economy struggles to achieve solid recovery.

Last year saw some of the biggest bankruptcies in the post-

under the weight of debts left over from the free-wheeling "bubble" era of inflated asset prices in the late 1980s.

Total debts held by firms which went bust in 1996 fell 12.1 percent from the previous year to 8.12 trillion yen (\$66.5 billion), but it was still the third-highest figure on record, Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research Co reported last month.

Gajoen shares were suspended by the Tokyo Stock Exchange for the whole of yesterday's afternoon session.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep.
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.925	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.2.97)					
CURRENCY BASKET	TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.5583	3.6983			3.6296
U.S. dollar	3.2870	3.3401	3.29	3.30	3.3180
German mark	2.0029	2.0353	1.98	2.07	2.0187
Pound sterling	5.3323	5.4184	5.24	5.50	5.3829
French franc	0.5823	0.6019	0.58	0.62	0.5974
Japanese yen (100)	2.6931	2.7369	2.64	2.76	2.7141
Dutch florin	1.7829	1.8117	1.75	1.84	1.7881
Swiss franc	2.3164	2.3538	2.27	2.39	2.3277
Swedish krona	0.4507	0.4580	0.44	0.47	0.4542
Norwegian krona	0.5038	0.5181	0.50	0.53	0.5136
Denish krona	0.5249	0.5334	0.51	0.53	0.5225
Finnish mark	0.5727	0.5836	0.56	0.70	0.6780
Canadian dollar	2.4480	2.4875	2.40	2.58	2.4718
Australian dollar	2.5068	2.5483	2.46	2.59	2.5309
S. African rand	0.7258	0.7376	0.66	0.74	0.7324
Belgian franc (10)	0.9705	0.9862	0.96	1.00	0.9787
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8461	2.8921	2.79	2.94	2.8708
Italian lire (1000)	2.0278	2.0508	1.99	2.09	2.0470
Jordanian dinar	4.5700	4.6300	4.57	4.88	4.7087
Egyptian pound	0.8300	1.0200	0.93	1.02	1.0165
ECU	3.6748	3.9373			3.9082
Irish punt	5.2568	5.3407	5.16	5.42	5.3043
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3610	2.3981	2.32	2.44	2.3813

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEIARI

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table listing Mishtanim leading 100 Tase issues with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

NEW YORK

Large table listing various New York market data, including share prices and changes.

Table listing various international and domestic shares with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Table listing TASE roundup data with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

NYSE

Table listing NYSE data with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table listing New York market indexes with columns for index name, last price, and last change.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table listing other stock market indexes with columns for index name, last price, and last change.

US COMMODITIES

Table listing US commodities with columns for commodity name, last price, and last change.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table listing London commodities with columns for commodity name, last price, and last change.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table listing spot market metals with columns for metal name, last price, and last change.

Stocks dip lower

Maof 261.24▼1.65%
Stock indexes sank yesterday after Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel voiced disappointment with January's budget deficit and called for budgetary restraint.

Speculation a meeting between Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor would "end badly acted as a trigger for losses," said Dan Kitri, an analyst at Bank Ozar HaHayal.

World Market Roundup

Euro stocks mixed amid rate anxiety
LONDON (Reuter) - European stocks closed mixed yesterday as investors faced an anxious wait for news on US interest rates, the issue which has haunted this year's bull runs.

Wall Street Report

Dow up as Fed meets
NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks rose yesterday as Wall Street awaited US President Clinton's State of the Union address and the conclusion yesterday of the Federal Reserve's policy-setting meeting.

Where to Go

Notifies in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per day, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

General Assistance

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Tel Aviv: Shoshana Pharm. 42 Jerusalem: Shoshana Pharm. 42 Jerusalem: Shoshana Pharm. 42

PAC MED INVESTMENTS

Table listing various international and domestic shares with columns for share name, last price, and last change.

Vertical text on the left margin: "Keter talks prospect US part" and "MONEY MARKET".

Drug tests mandatory here next year

All of the country's National League soccer and basketball players will be subject to drug tests next year, according to Deputy Minister of Sport Moshe Peled. Each player will be subject to two tests per year. Any one found to have taken drugs may be "thrown out of the league," said Peled.

Soccer chairman Gavri Levy said he supported the new rule and would cooperate in every way. Basketball chairman Shimon Mizrahi stated he hoped Israel will have the proper laboratory facilities to carry out these tests in an orderly fashion.

Mizrahi added that he does not agree with Peled's claim that certain foreign basketball and soccer players had unspoken agreements with their management that they would not be subjected to drug tests. "Any sportsman who comes to Israel thinking that he is the answer to the Garden of Eden is making a huge mistake," Mizrahi said.

In other developments, the draw for the basketball State Cup semifinals has been made, pitting Maccabi Tel Aviv against Kiryat Motzkin and Hapoel Jerusalem against Ironi Ramat Gan. The two games will be played at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliyahu on March 20. (10m)

Robson supporters come to embattled coach's aid

As criticism rained down on Bobby Robson following Barcelona's dismal weekend 2-2 draw, a small group of fans has come together to demand greater respect for the veteran English coach.

Calling itself the "Group for the Respect, Justice and Support of Bobby Robson," the loosely-formed association placed an advertisement in the Barcelona daily *La Vanguardia* on Monday calling for the media to treat Robson more fairly.

"The results are no excuse for the lack of respect with which Mr. Robson is treated," said Jordi Gil and 14 other Barcelona fans decided to take out the ad in protest.

"The media never stops hounding Robson, looking for his dismissal. They never treated Johan Cruyff like that," said Gil.

The group believes, however, that a good sector of the club's fans with support in the media are opposed to Robson and yearn for the return of Cruyff, who over eight years led the club to its first European Champions Cup and four consecutive league titles.

The advertisement, including a bank account number so sympathizers can contribute to the campaign, came as most of Spain's sports media slammed Robson and Barcelona following the side's 2-2 draw Sunday against Oviedo despite having had a two-goal lead. Barcelona travels to Real Madrid tomorrow.

Meanwhile a second embattled British coach, John Toshack, will lead Deportivo Coruna to last night's results: F.A. Cup third-round replay, Woking 1, Coventry 2. Fourth round: Arsenal 0, Leeds 1; Bolton 2, Chesterfield 3; Peterborough 2, Wrexham 4. Fourth-round replay: Wimbledon 1, Manchester United 0.

Friendly tips for folks back home

Malaysian businessman testifies in match-fixing trial

WINCHESTER (AP) - A Malaysian businessman accused of taking part in a soccer match-fixing conspiracy testified Monday he provided tips on English games to a betting friend back home.

Heng Suan Lim, 31, told Winchester Crown Court he passed on information to a family friend who was involved in betting but said he didn't expect to receive any money.

"I didn't understand that I was being invited to do anything illegal," Lim told the jury. "I didn't think I was expecting money as a priority. I was just doing a favor for him because he had done me favors during the early stage of my stay in London." Lim was testifying on the 13th day of a trial in which he and three soccer players are charged with conspiring to give or receive money to influence the results of Premier League games.

Lim, the first of the four defendants to take the stand, is accused of being the middleman for a Far Eastern gambling syndicate. The players on trial are former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, former Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers and former Wimbledon and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu.

Under questioning by defense lawyer Jerome Lynch, Lim told the jury that he was known by the name of Richard in Malaysia.

"It was a name given to me because I was a hard tackler in my younger days and they called me Richard the Lionheart," he said.

Lim said he went from a broken home and life in an orphanage to being a Malaysian

Under-18 international who also played for one of the local pro teams.

Lim said his parents separated when he was very young and he lived in an orphanage in Kuala Lumpur along with his two sisters from the age of 10 to 16.

He said he played for the local orphanage soccer team and became well known with the local pro players from the Hong Chin soccer club.

"One day they were short of players for training and I was called in," Lim said. "That's how my association with the club began. Certainly football was my life then because I was very interested in football and football has given me a great deal of new identity."

"I felt very proud of my new identity through football," Lim said he moved to London in September 1986 and studied to be an accountant. He wrote to West Ham United asking for a trial as a player but didn't get one.

It was at that point, Lim testified, that his friend in Malaysia began asking him about the odds on English soccer games.

"There isn't any legalized football betting in Malaysia but friends used to bet among themselves," Lim said.

"If I had any good information, like certain teams had a lot of injuries or new players were coming to the team, I was to let him know immediately."

"I think they could get the information through the newspapers there but it was later than in England. I would have known in England before the news traveled back to Malaysia."

Bullets' road woes go unabated

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The Utah Jazz never gave the Washington Bullets a chance to feel they might salvage a miserable road trip.

"They came out and played hard. They didn't let us get any

two days and their sixth straight road defeat, Tracy Murray added 11 for Washington, which has lost eight of 11 games and three straight.

"I think we are still suffering from the ill after effects of the whipping we got last night (a 129-99 loss to the Lakers)," Bullets coach Jim Lynam said.

In Monday's other action, visiting Boston beat Toronto 114-102 and Sacramento stole the welcome mat from San Antonio 85-79.

Rodman back after break
Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman will be reinstated right after Sunday's All-Star game.

Rodman, who met with NBA Commissioner David Stern on Friday, would be allowed to return to the Bulls for their home game against Charlotte on February 11.

Rodman was fined, suspended and directed to undergo psychiatric counseling for kicking a courtside cameraman during a game at Minnesota on January 15.

confidence." Washington forward Chris Webber said after Utah's 111-89 victory Monday night.

"They didn't let us make a run at all." The Jazz were led by Karl Malone with 24 points and 10 rebounds in 27 minutes.

Stephen Howard, who signed a contract for the rest of the season earlier in the day, scored a career-high 16 points. Greg Ostertag saw his daughter being born during the first half, then scored seven points, pulled down two rebounds and blocked two shots in 11 minutes of the second half.

George Mursan scored 18 points for the Bullets, who suffered their second blowout loss in

EASTERN CONFERENCE

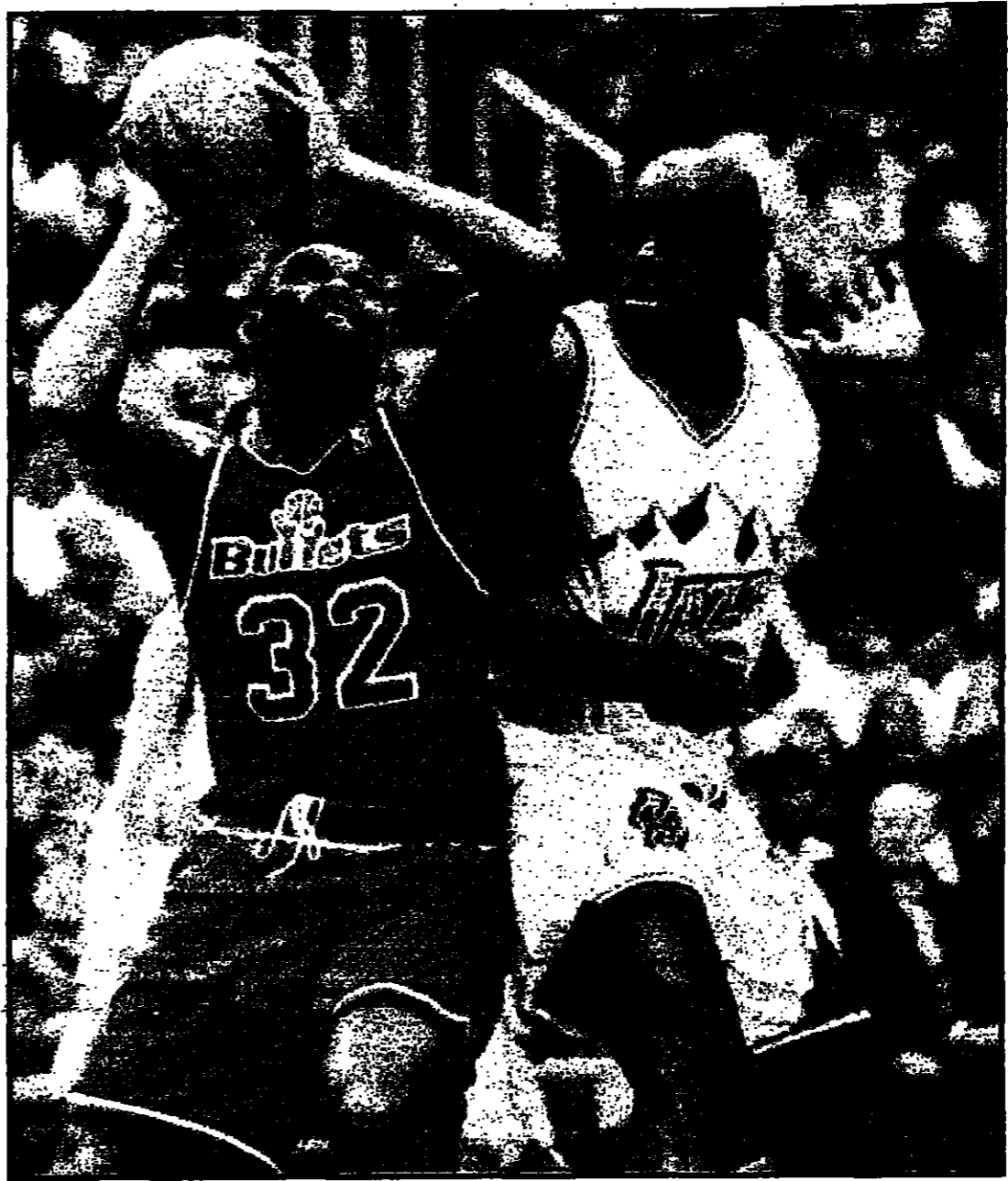
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	34	12	739	-
New York	32	14	696	2
Orlando	22	20	524	10
Washington	22	24	478	12
New Jersey	12	32	273	21
Boston	11	33	250	22
Philadelphia	11	34	244	22½

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	41	5	891	-
Detroit	33	12	733	7½
Atlanta	30	14	682	10
Charlotte	27	19	587	14
Cleveland	24	21	533	16½
Indiana	22	22	500	19
Milwaukee	21	24	467	19½
Toronto	16	29	356	24½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	32	14	696	-
Utah	32	14	696	-
Minnesota	21	26	447	10
Dallas	16	28	345	15½
Denver	15	32	319	17½
San Antonio	11	32	256	19½
Vancouver	9	40	184	24½

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
L.A. Lakers	34	12	739	-
Seattle	32	14	696	2
Portland	25	22	532	9½
Sacramento	21	26	447	13½
L.A. Clippers	18	28	391	14½
Golden State	17	28	378	16½
Phoenix	16	31	340	18½



A SPEEDING BULLET - Washington Bullets guard Jaren Jackson gets past Utah Jazz forward Antoine Carr in Monday night's action. (Reuter)

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Holyfield-Tyson bout set for May

NEW YORK (Reuter) - It was a kinder, gentler press conference than the ugly affair that launched the first Tyson-Holyfield fight, but Mike Tyson had no time for niceties ahead of the May 3 rematch dubbed "The Sound and the Fury."

"I'm looking for a knockout," said Tyson, who lost his World Boxing Association heavyweight title to Evander Holyfield after an 11-round beating last November.

"My philosophy of life is 'destroy or be destroyed,'" Tyson said Monday. "I'm looking forward to destroying" Holyfield shocked the fight world with his one-sided victory over Tyson to claim the heavyweight title for a third time at the advanced age of 34.

What is not so shocking is that the two heavyweights will get back together in Las Vegas since this boxing promotion is expected to gross well over \$100 million in what is projected to be the biggest pay-per-view bonanza ever.

Holyfield, 33-3, is expected to earn a guaranteed \$35m with a shot at \$40m. Tyson, 45-2, is rumored to get around \$20m. Tickets for the fight at the MGM Grand are priced from \$1,500 down to \$200.

Promoter Don King, taking a rare break from twisted, tortured references to Shakespeare and Faulkner, said: "You can rest assured they are not going to suffer from poverty." Those attending the launch of their first fight were made to suffer through trash talking at its filthiest as Team Tyson insisted it was going to be payback time for alleged comments made by Holyfield five years ago that he would not fight a convicted rapist.

Tyson co-manager Rory Holloway, who had said he was eager to see the kind of pain Tyson was going to inflict on Holyfield, praised the enemy this time around.

"I want to thank Evander Holyfield for being a man of his word," said Holloway. "Mike Tyson will be in the best shape he



Mike Tyson "Destroy or be destroyed"

Jets choose Belichick, then Parcells

HEMPSTEAD - Unwilling to strike a deal with New England for Bill Parcells, the New York Jets said yesterday they have hired him as a consultant and he will be their coach no later than next year.

For now, Bill Belichick, Parcells' longtime aide, will become the interim coach and run the team's football operations. Jets president Steve Gutman said Belichick is also likely to be the successor after Parcells coaches "two or more years." "Bill and I will work in concert as we always have and I think we'll be successful," Belichick said.

Parcells, who coached the Patriots to the Super Bowl this season, will have no responsibility in coaching or personnel matters although he is to have an office at the Jets' complex.

Gutman said Parcells is to work a "limited number of hours." "A consultant consults," Gutman said. "He does not make decisions."

Belichick, who was the Cleveland Browns' head coach for five seasons, spent last season as Parcells' defensive coordinator with the Patriots.

Clearly, he is not the coach the woeful Jets sought. But with negotiations to acquire Parcells going nowhere and the Jets adamant in retaining their overall No. 1 draft pick, the club turned to Belichick as a successor to Rich Kotite, filling the last NFL coaching vacancy.

Belichick inherits a team that went 3-13 and 1-15 the last two seasons under Kotite. He will be the fourth coach the team has had in five years and Parcells presumably would become the fifth in six years when he takes over.

"It's great to be back in the area," said Belichick, Parcells' defensive coordinator on the New York Giants' two Super Bowl winners.

Tyson muttered that he didn't drink, did not advocate drinking and had nothing to do with it. Holyfield also fidgeted uncomfortably on the other side of the dais.

SCOREBOARD
NHL - Monday's results: Florida 2, Montreal 2 (OT); Ottawa 6, Vancouver 4; Los Angeles 3, Calgary 2; Chicago 4, San Jose 2.

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Bar-On Affair

Meridor gives evidence

By RAINE MARCUS

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, an unexpected party in the Bar-On-for-Hebron affair, gave evidence at National Police Headquarters yesterday. A week prior to Bar-On's proposed appointment as Attorney General, Meridor abstained in a Knesset vote for him. Meridor insisted on giving evidence at the National Police Headquarters. Sources said that he is not suspected of any wrongdoing.

"Everyone knew I objected to the Bar-On appointment," said Meridor, who gave evidence for around four hours. Police said he will not be summoned again.

Now, said sources, other ministers who abstained from voting, or objected to the Bar-On appointment may also be summoned to give evidence in an attempt to get to the truth. Amongst those who did not support Bar-On's appointment are Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Foreign

Minister David Levy and former science minister Benny Begin.

Around the same time yesterday, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi also gave evidence at the Justice Ministry, Hanegbi, according to the TV Channel 1 allegations, also knew of the deal, but he denied allegations yesterday. He said he cooperated with police, answered all questions and even gave investigators documents. He denied knowledge of a deal between Deri, Prime Minister Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman and others.

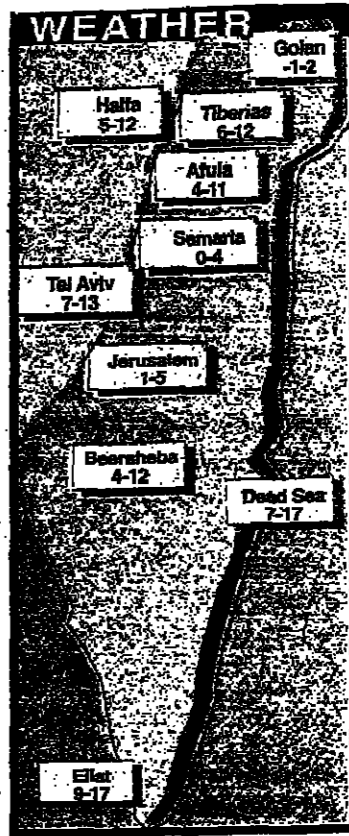
However, two characters considered key witnesses in the alleged deal also gave evidence in the National Fraud Squad's Jaffa headquarters yesterday. MK Aryeh Deri and Deri's close friend David Appel were both summoned for questioning. Deri refused to talk to reporters. Appel, who is suing Channel 1 in a NIS 5 million slander suit, said he forwarded all relevant details to police but denied any part in the alleged deal.



Snow covers Golan, high peaks

The country continued to shiver in the grip of an icy winter blast yesterday as snow closed many roads on the Golan and also fell on peaks in Galilee including Mt. Meron and Safed. IDF snow ploughs and heavy vehicles were kept busy throughout the day trying to keep the roads passable, although driving conditions were made even more treacherous because of thick fog and strong winds. The road from Majdal Shams to the Mt. Hermon ski site (see photo) remained blocked throughout the day, keeping the site itself closed to visitors. By yesterday, the snow on the peak had reached a depth of over one meter. Staff said the site would open for visitors and skiers as soon as the weather cleared. Jerusalem municipality put gritting lorries on standby to clear roads in case of snow in the capital. Elsewhere, heavy rain, which turned to hail at times, caused flooding on many roads, particularly in the north. As night fell, heavy snow was reported on the Golan and Galilee peaks. Snow was reported around Kibbutz Manara and even in Metulla, north of Kiryat Shmona.

(Text: David Rodger, Photo: Avshalom Shapira, Israel Sun)



AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Forecast		
Buenos Aires	16	61	26	77	clear
Calcutta	11	26	19	63	clear
Chicago	04	28	08	43	cloudy
Copenhagen	02	29	08	36	cloudy
Hankou	03	27	04	38	cloudy
Hong Kong	01	34	04	38	cloudy
Houston	04	34	04	38	cloudy
London	15	59	16	61	rain
Los Angeles	15	61	16	61	clear
Madrid	12	53	12	64	clear
Moscow	07	34	08	46	clear
New York	03	41	14	57	cloudy
Paris	04	39	08	46	cloudy
Rome	04	39	08	46	cloudy
Sydney	18	64	23	73	clear
Tokyo	08	35	12	54	cloudy
Toronto	05	32	07	34	cloudy
Vancouver	06	31	07	34	clear
Zurich	01	31	01	34	snow

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the eight of hearts, the nine of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 12, 14, 19, 28, 30 and 40 and the additional number was 1.

Albright's parents were Jews - report

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, it seems, may be a trailblazer not only as the first woman to occupy the position but also as the first Jewish woman.

Three of Albright's grandparents and more than a dozen of her relatives were Jews who were killed during the Holocaust in Auschwitz or died of diseases at Theresienstadt, according to yesterday's Washington Post.

The newspaper reached these findings while conducting research for a profile of the new secretary that is to appear in this Sunday's magazine.

Albright's parents, Josef and Mandula Korbela, hid their Jewishness from their children and only in recent years has Albright begun looking into her past, the paper said.

Albright told a reporter last week that "the only thing I have to go by is what my mother and father told me," which is that family members simply died "during World War II."

The material was culled from documents in German, Czech and Jewish archives, as well as

Auschwitz transport lists and interviews the paper conducted with the Korbels' family and friends in the former Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

"I have always thought of myself as a Czechoslovak Catholic. My parents were of the generation who thought they were the children of a free Czechoslovakia, the only democracy in central Europe. That was their pride [and] that is what I grew up with," she said.

Those who knew the family in Europe began writing to Albright soon after the collapse of Communism in 1989, providing tales of her hidden history, along with "the occasional letter which would say something about the fact that my family was of Jewish origin," she added.

Josef Korbela was a Czech diplomat who removed his family from Czechoslovakia soon after the Nazi invasion in 1939 and settled in England. The family returned after the war, but following the Communist takeover, fled to the US.

Albright was raised a Catholic and is now an Episcopalian.

Henry Kissinger is the only secretary of state who was Jewish.

Woman killed in automobile accident

Gazla Ali Hujrat, 35, of Kafir Bir al-Maksur, was killed and the driver was lightly injured when their car veered into oncoming traffic on the Nazareth-Shifaram road yesterday afternoon and crashed head-on into a bus. Two weeks ago, two people were killed and one person was seriously injured in an accident near the same spot. (Itim)

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